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Private companies will have to provide security deposit

IN a move designed to safeguard the interests of workers, a decision was issued yesterday stipulating the amount of security deposit private establishments will have to provide for each of their workers.

Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, issued the decision said it requires private establishments to pay a monetary deposit as security in case of disputes arising between businessmen and their employees.

The decision is to become effective from the date of publication in the official gazette.

Elucidating Sheikh Nasser said that the 10-article decision stipulates that all employers in the private sector should be committed to the implementation of the "financial security charter" as prescribed by the ministry. The decision has fixed the respective amounts as follows:

- Establishments employing up to 500 workers — KD250 per worker.
- Establishments employing between 501 and 1,000 workers — KD200 per worker.
- Establishments employing more than 1,000 workers — KD150 per worker.

The decision added that the employer must provide the security deposit in the form of a bank guarantee issued by a Kuwait bank to the concerned labour department.

Another article states that the employer should authorise the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour or his deputy to withdraw such amounts as may be required by the ministry for disbursements to workers. Such authorisation by the employer should be forthcoming no later than 15 days after receiving intimation from the ministry by registered mail.

The bank guarantee cannot be considered cancelled until the ministry informs the bank to this effect.

Any violations of these decisions will be dealt with legally, the ministerial decision said.

The rules of this decision are applicable to the following establishments:

- Employers contracting to execute government projects.
- Companies, establishments and contractors involved in contracting businesses.
- Firms which in the opinion of the ministry warrant a bank guarantee.

NEWSWATCH

Divorce march

DIYARBAKIR, May 16. (Reuters): Hundreds of Turkish roadbuilders marched to court today to demand divorces in a bizarre new twist to the country's mounting labour militancy.

"We have to try everything to win our rights. We've already refused to shave, we've walked barefoot to work, we've reported sick together," a roadbuilders' union official said.

More than half the union's 2,500 members in Diyarbakir, 1,400 km (875 miles) southeast of Istanbul, queued under a hot sun to file for divorce on the grounds of poverty.

10-inch baby

SYDNEY, May 16. (Reuters): An Australian woman has given birth to a baby measuring 25 centimetres (10 inches), doctors at a Sydney hospital said today.

"She looked like a little golf ball with eyes," said baby Nicole's fisherman father Ray Fauscoe.

Nicole was born to Jenny Fauscoe 11 weeks premature on April 23. The baby was delivered by Caesarean section after she stopped growing in the womb and has been in an intensive care ward surviving day-to-day in a respirator.

Smarten up

ISLAMABAD, May 16. (Reuters): Policemen in Pakistan's capital Islamabad were ordered yesterday to tighten their belts or make way for thinner officers.

Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan has asked their police chief to "obtain waistline measurements of all police personnel and those exceeding 34 inches (85 cm) might be given six weeks to reduce and smarten up, failing which they should be replaced by smarter officials."

Still missing

KUWAIT, May 16. (KUNA): An authoritative security source at the Interior Ministry said today that the lost Coast Guard gunboat, which was reported found, is still missing. Intensive efforts are being exerted to locate it.



Ball granted

A former oil executive kept handcuffed in his hospital bed while an Egyptian court heard a corruption case against him was awarded bail today.

Sami Selim, bedridden with heart, lung and liver problems since August last year, was granted bail of 30,000 Egyptian pounds (\$12,000).

Selim, is accused of receiving illegal commissions of more than \$124,000.

Picture shows Selim, lies on his bed in an intensive care unit in a Cairo hospital. (Reuters wirephoto)

INSIDE

International	2,3
Middle East	4,5
Kuwait-Gulf	6,7
Editorials	8
Business	9,11
Stocks	10,11
Events	13
Features	14,15
Classifieds	16
Urdu	17,18
Sports	19,20

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○ لیٹان کے مفتی اعظم
دعا کے ساتھ ہوا کہے



A rescue worker rushes to evacuate casualties moments after the car bomb blast. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gunmen seize W. Germans Kidnapped again

SIDON, Lebanon, May 16. (Reuters): Gunmen kidnapped four West Germans in the southern Lebanese port city of Sidon today, three of them for the second time this month, witnesses and security sources said.

They said 10 unidentified gunmen seized Heinrich Struebig, 48, Petra Schnitzler, 26, Marcus Quint, 24, and a fourth colleague from the West German Asme Humanitas Relief Agency (AHRA) as they drove through Sidon.

Struebig, Schnitzler and Quint were abducted in Sidon on May 4. Struebig and Schnitzler were freed the next day and Quint was released on Sunday. At the time, the West German Foreign Ministry expressed scepticism about the kidnapping.

The witnesses said the gunmen, driving in three cars, chased the car in which the West Germans were driving and fired in the air to force them to stop.

"Three masked gunmen came out of one of the cars, bundled three of the Germans in the boot and pushed the fourth onto the back seat before speeding off," one witness said.

Gazans asked to leave Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 16. (Reuters): Five leading Palestinians accused Israel today of trying to sabotage their peace efforts by arresting a colleague before they met visiting US State Department official Dennis Ross.

The Army, in an apparently co-ordinated clampdown, placed the entire Gaza Strip under curfew, ordered Gaza Arabs to leave Israel and rounded up dozens of Palestinians in raids on West Bank villages.

Security sources said the Israeli clampdown was intended to reassert Army control two days after the cabinet adopted an initiative for elections in the occupied areas.

Hundreds of Palestinians queued at the checkpoint to the crowded Gaza Strip, whose 650,000 residents were confined to their houses under an indefinite curfew imposed late yesterday.

Police said they would arrest Gazans found in Israel and take them to the checkpoint.

Ghassan Al Khatib, a 37-year-old cultural studies professor at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, was taken by troops and secret police from his home in Ramallah hours before he was to have met Ross, his family said.

"We protested this action on the part of the Israeli government," Sami Nusseibeh, a leading nationalist activist said after meeting Ross.

US officials invited Khatib and the five other Arabs to meet Ross, the State Department policy planning director, to discuss Israeli proposals for elections in the occupied areas to choose peace negotiators.

Nusseibeh said Palestinians favoured democratic methods but rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's election proposal because it failed to ensure Palestinian stanchness or a role for the PLO, which is shunned by Israel as a terrorist organisation.

Gaza hospitals said troops shot dead 13-year-old Yasser Mahmoud Al Birtat and wounded at least seven Arab protesters who defied a curfew to stone Army patrols and installations.

Iraq resuming Gulf oil exports in show of strength

ABU DHABI, May 16. (Reuters): Iraq plans to resume crude oil exports from the Gulf on June 1, days before a key OPEC meeting, to underline its strength as a producer and to warn Gulf war foe Iran to respect OPEC sales limits, oil analysts said.

"Iraq mainly wants to make its presence felt as a producer with a vast export and production capacity before the OPEC meeting," an oil industry executive said today.

"Iraq has a long-term goal to be a price-maker, not a price-taker, in OPEC," said an oil industry analyst in the Gulf. "It will definitely use its export and production potential to be number two after Saudi Arabia in OPEC."

Iraq, which has not exported crude oil through the Gulf since Iranian attacks damaged two deepwater terminals at the head of the waterway in 1980, said yesterday super-tankers could start calling at the Mina Al Bakr terminal on June 1.

Iraq and Iran, which agreed to a ceasefire in their eight-year war last August, have had the same OPEC sales quota of 2.64 million barrels per day (BPD) since November, when OPEC set a total ceiling of 18.5 million BPD in a bid to boost oil prices.

Oil ministers of 13 Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) member states meet in Vienna on June 5 to set the group's output level for the rest of the year.

But oil industry sources say Iraq, restricted by its current export outlets, has had to stand by since March and watch Iran exceed its quota.

Bomb kills grand mufti of Lebanon

21 others die: Sheikh Sabah grieved

BEIRUT, May 16. (Agencies): Lebanon's highest Muslim cleric, grand mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled, was assassinated by a car bomb that killed 21 other people and wounded 75 in Syrian-policed West Beirut today.

Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, who is the head of an Arab League committee on Lebanon, today expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of Sheikh Hassan.

Sheikh Sabah said in Kuwait that he heard with great sorrow the news of Sheikh Hassan's martyrdom by the same sinful hands that have been wreaking havoc in Lebanon over the past years.

The blast occurred as the Arab League stepped up efforts to consolidate a six-day-old ceasefire called to halt the latest round of civil war fighting.

The 1 pm (1000 GMT) blast silenced one of the most prominent voices of moderation in the Muslim camp.

Police said the grand mufti was being chauffeured home from his office for lunch when the bomb went off in the Aishe Bakkar district, crowded with rush hour traffic.

Rescuers had to break the doors of Khaled's smashed black Cadillac to pull out his mutilated body along with those of his driver, his brother-in-law Hussein Bashashah and an unidentified companion.

One policeman screamed in anguish as he brought Khaled's blood-stained white turban from his crumpled limousine. "Our beloved mufti is murdered," he shouted in tears.

Among others killed were four bodyguards from Lebanon's crack Squad 16 riot police. The four were burned beyond recognition in their charred jeep, said a police spokesman.



Rescue workers scream for help as they extinguish a fire caused by the car bomb explosion which killed Sheikh Hassan Khaled (inset). (Reuters wirephoto)

Hopes of release

Beirut hostages alive

LONDON, May 16. (Reuters): A Lebanese cleric who helped negotiate the release of French hostages in Lebanon has said he had high hopes of freeing other Western captives.

Sheikh Abdel Moneim Al Zein, spiritual leader of Senegal's Lebanese Muslims, offered to help free British and US hostages and said he was certain they were all alive.

"There are difficult factors when it comes to these hostages," he said in an interview with the London-based Saudi Arabian magazine Al Majalla.

"But in general it should be possible to smooth out these difficulties," said Zein, who offered to renew his mediation efforts if approached by the United States and Britain through Senegalese President Abdou Diouf.

He hesitated when asked if Washington and London had made such a request, saying that he did not know.

Asked whether three British hostages — Anglican church envoy Terry Waite, television journalist John McCarthy and teacher Brian Keenan — were alive, Zein said: "Yes, all are alive and the information we have does not contradict that."

Acting out of compassion

LAS VEGAS, May 16. (AP): A US immigration official says he was acting out of compassion when he let a prayer that Ferdinand and Marcos be allowed to return to the Philippines.

Harold Ezell said yesterday he led the prayer during an Aug 3 party where he also danced with Marcos' wife, Imelda, because the deposed Philippine president had expressed a desire to return home to bury his mother.

"It has nothing to do with US policy. It has something to do with a human being who has feelings as I have," said Ezell, western regional commissioner of the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service.

Ezell said he now regrets attending the party at Marcos' mansion overlooking Honolulu, but doesn't regret offering the prayer.

A US judge agreed yesterday to suppress "inflammatory" government evidence for the trial of Steve Psinakas, a prominent former anti-Marcos Philippine exile, a defence attorney said.

Saudi justice minister quits

RIYADH, May 16. (AP): Saudi Arabia's Minister of Justice, Ibrahim Bin Mohammed Al Sheikh, resigned from his post for health reasons, according to a royal decree.

The minister will be succeeded by Mohammed Bin Ibrahim Bin Jubair who has been named acting minister of justice in addition to his cabinet-level post of chairman of the grievances court, the decree said yesterday.

The decree, distributed by the official Saudi Press Agency, said King Fahd accepted the resignation at Ibrahim's request, and expressed his thanks and appreciation to the outgoing minister for his dedicated services.

Ethiopian military takes to streets

ADDIS ABABA, May 16. (AP): Air Force jets and helicopter gunships swept over the capital of war-torn Ethiopia today, as Army tanks and armoured cars raged key government buildings amid scattered shooting.

"I don't know what we've got, quite frankly," said a spokesman for the US embassy. "We've got reports of some shooting in the city, but not a great deal of it."

Government sources, speaking only on condition of anonymity, said the shooting broke out inside the Ministry of Defence in late afternoon.

Almost immediately, two Air Force MiG jet fighters began buzzing the city repeatedly and tanks, armoured personnel carriers and troops surrounded the ministry.

Later, tanks, armoured cars and soldiers took up defensive positions outside other key government buildings, including the presidential palace, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Information, which houses the government broadcasting station.

The radio station continued to broadcast normally and there were no announcements by the government. Internal and international communications channels also were uninterrupted.

Later in the evening, however, the city's international airport was closed to all traffic. Airport controllers, monitored by radio, gave no reason as they diverted commercial flights to nearby Djibouti.

Between four and six Soviet-made helicopter gunships began circling the city after the jets retired, and police and soldiers were keeping away from the city's centre, where the Ministry of Defence is located.

The trouble broke out several hours after President Mengistu Haile Mariam left Addis Ababa for a previously unannounced visit to East Germany.

The shooting at the Defence Ministry was heard at about 4 pm (1300 GMT) and several hours later its civilian and military employees still had not left the building, although there was no further gunfire.

Train-bus collision

NEW DELHI, May 16. (AP): A speeding train rammed into a bus packed with wedding guests at an unmanned railroad crossing in western Gujarat state, killing 47 people, news reports said today.

Both Press Trust of India and United News of India said 26 people died at the scene of last night's crash.

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INTERNATIONAL

Japan forms team to probe radiation from H-bomb

TOKYO, May 16, (AP): Japan formed a team yesterday to probe possible radiation pollution after the United States disclosed that a hydrogen bomb had been crushed by sea pressure and its nuclear material dissolved when it fell into the Pacific Ocean 24 years ago.

The US Defence Department told Japan last Friday that "there is no

environmental impact" from the dissolved nuclear material that would have settled quickly to the sea floor, 16,000 feet (5,000 metres) deep.

The one-megaton bomb could not have detonated at the time of the accident "because the system was designed not to arm or receive an arming command under this accident cir-

cumstances," the Pentagon report said.

The four-paragraph report did not specify the material in the bomb. But last week in Washington, when details of the 1965 accident were disclosed, researcher William Arkin at the Liberal Institute of Policy Studies said the bomb held 15 kilograms (33 pounds) of deadly plutonium.

It fell into the Pacific when an A-4 Skyhawk bearing the bomb accidentally slipped off the aircraft carrier Ticonderoga.

The previously secret location of the accident was just 80 miles (130 kilometres) off an inhabited island in Okinawa prefecture in far southern Japan.

As the only country ever attacked with nuclear weapons, Japan is particularly sensitive to the nuclear issue. The newly revealed accident raises not only the radioactive pollution issue but also whether the United States side-steps Japan's ban on nuclear weapons.

The ship reportedly was sailing to the US naval base at Yokosuka at the

mouth of Tokyo Bay.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi was asked at a news conference whether the ship had gone on to dock at Yokosuka. He replied, "We have no confirmation at present, but we are inquiring now."

At the time of the accident, Japan still had not formed its anti-nuclear policy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Copter crash

MANILA, May 16, (Reuters): Two Americans and a Filipino pilot were killed today when a helicopter used in filming a US movie in the Philippines slammed into a mountain and exploded, police and doctors said.

Ban challenged

LONDON, May 16, (Reuters): Six journalists challenged the British government's ban on direct broadcast interviews with guerrillas and their supporters in the high court today.

Anthony Lester, the group's lawyer, said the measure raised "issues of considerable interest and importance concerning free speech in a democratic society."

Hospitalisation

NEWARK, New Jersey, May 16, (UPI): A federal judge ruled yesterday that a former federal prosecutor who admitted fabricating threatening letters during an extradition hearing for two accused Sikh terrorists is not a danger to society and can receive psychiatric treatment on an outpatient basis.

US district judge Nicholas declined to order incarceration or hospitalisation for Judy G Russell, a former assistant US attorney who was declared innocent of obstruction of justice by reason of insanity at a short non-jury trial in April. She was recently based at least temporarily, from practicing law.

New product

WASHINGTON, May 16, (Reuters): Du Pont Pharmaceuticals said yesterday it would begin selling a new product it said greatly lengthens the time human organs can be preserved before they are transplanted.

The new substance, called Wisman, was developed by University of Wisconsin researchers under a grant from the National Institutes of Health. It will go on sale world-wide by June 1.

Security service

LONDON, May 16, (KUNA): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has given the go-ahead for the publication of a detailed account of the work of the security services in countering German intelligence agents during the 1939-1945 war, it was reported today.

Rocket launchers

BELFAST, May 16, (Reuters): Police fear a sharp rise in civilian casualties now that both IRA guerrillas and Protestant paramilitaries are using RPG-7 rocket launchers for attacks.

Thumb bitten off

REGENSDORF, Switzerland, May 16, (Reuters): A South Korean seaman bit off a comrade's left thumb and swallowed it during a drunken row, police said today.

The 26-year-old sailor fled from the hotel where they were staying in this northern Swiss town yesterday but was arrested an hour later. Police said he may be sent back to South Korea.

His victim, a seaman aged 38, was taken to hospital for treatment and later flew to Seoul.

US flays Soviet missiles warning

WASHINGTON, May 16, (UPI): The State Department sharpened US reaction to Soviet rhetoric in the debate over short-range nuclear missiles yesterday, branding as "outlandish" a warning Moscow might decide to break part of the INF treaty.

At issue is a comment by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze that Moscow might stop dismantling its SS-23 missiles if the United States goes ahead with its proposal to modernise Lance short-range nuclear-armed missiles based in West Germany.

The SS-23, with a range of slightly more than 300 miles (480 km), is covered by the intermediate nuclear forces treaty signed in December 1987 by former President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and ratified at the 1988 Moscow summit.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher, reading from a statement, said yesterday, "We think Shevardnadze's remarks are an outlandish statement."

Boucher said short-range weapons such as the Lance are not covered by the treaty, which deals with weapons with a range from 500 kilometres to 5,500 kilometres — 300 miles to 3,500 miles.

The State Department was much firmer than Sunday's comment from White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, who expressed bewilderment about Shevardnadze's remarks.

"They've been bragging about arms reduction all over Western Europe," Fitzwater noted. "It seems inconsistent that now, suddenly, they want to back away from arms reductions."

The Shevardnadze statement — delivered in Bonn on Saturday — was an added complication for the United States in its open public debate with the West German government.

The West Germans, led most vocally by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, want to negotiate the elimination of the short-range missiles, rather than modernise them.

The US position, as stated by Secretary of State James Baker, is that the short-range weapons are essential to Western deterrence, since they supply an insurance policy against aggression by the numerically superior Soviet and Warsaw Pact conventional forces in Europe.

Gorbachev informed Bush this month that all Soviet weapons deliveries to Marxist-controlled Nicaragua were suspended at the beginning of 1989 and would not be resumed, an administration official said last night.

US recalls envoy to Panama in protest

Attack on Ford deliberate: Davis

PANAMA CITY, May 16, (Agencies): US Ambassador Arthur Davis left Panama with a parting shot aimed at military leader Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, accusing the de facto ruler of trying to assassinate an opposition leader.

Davis was recalled by President Bush for consultations in protest at the Panamanian government's annulled presidential elections, which independent observers said should have given anti-Noriega forces a resounding victory.

Western diplomats said yesterday that Noriega seemed to be avoiding confrontation with his opponents before tomorrow's meeting of the Organisation of American States.

A series of opposition protests in churches across the country on Sunday took place without incident.

Sources close to the government and other diplomats said Noriega soon might offer to negotiate with the opposition as a way of defusing the political crisis. But several diplomats cautioned that Noriega might simply use negotiations as a ploy to buy time.

In a departure statement at Howard Air Force Base, Davis said yesterday that an attack by a pro-Noriega paramilitary group on an opposition rally last week was a "deliberate, Noriega-directed attempt on the life" of Guillermo Ford, the vice-presidential candidate of the anti-Noriega civil democratic opposition alliance.

From eyewitness reports and from the evidence of the wounds suffered by the bodyguards of Ford, the attack was meant to kill him," Davis said before boarding a plane bound for Andrews Air Force Base near Washington.

Asked for evidence to back his allegation, Davis would only say, "I can't reveal my sources."

But after arriving at Andrews Air Force Base, Davis said he had photographs of members of the uniformed Panamanian Defence Forces changing into T-shirts of the dignity battalion, the pro-Noriega group that attacked Ford.

Davis, the target of charges by the government that he is masterminding the opposition, hinted his main hope for ousting Noriega was a coup within the 15,000-man Panamanian Defence Forces. He said that "most people agree that the solution to the Noriega problem" is for his own Panamanian Defence Forces to take care of it.

But Davis also let slip signs of frustration with two years of futile US efforts to oust Panama's military chief and de facto ruler.

Asked whether he was openly inciting rebellion within the Panamanian military, he said, "I do not have that many contacts any more... to incite a rebellion."

When one reporter prefaced a question by saying that the Panamanian government had accused Davis of doing everything except poisoning Noriega's soup, Davis muttered, "that's not such a bad idea."

Davis's departure is part of a deliberate reduction in the US diplomatic mission in Panama, which the State Department said would be reduced from 93 people to about 40 by June 1.

Davis's deputy chief of mission, John Maisto, took over as chargé d'affaires at the embassy. Officials said about 30 dependents of embassy personnel returned to Washington with Davis.

The departure of Davis came amid growing rumours and speculation about how Noriega would respond to the post-election crisis.

Opposition leaders have tried to co-ordinate a joint Latin American diplomatic effort to isolate Noriega and also have vowed to continue civil protests in Panama.

The OAS has scheduled a special session of foreign ministers tomorrow to discuss the Panamanian crisis.

The striking doctors are junior hospital staffers. Nearly all are resident physicians. At Lohia hospital, 225 of the 300 doctors were on strike.



Dependents of US embassy employees in Panama board an American government jet at Howard Air Force Base (Reuters wirephoto)

China sent troops to Vietnam

HONG KONG, May 16, (Reuters): China has admitted for the first time that it sent thousands of combat troops to Vietnam to fight against US forces and their South Vietnamese allies.

The semi-official China News Service said today in a report monitored in Hong Kong that China sent 320,000 soldiers to Vietnam during the 1960s. It also spent over \$20 billion to support Hanoi's regular North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong guerrilla units.

The agency report cited "The History of the People's Republic of China," published by the official state archives publishing house, as say-

ing that more than 4,000 Chinese soldiers were killed during the war.

Fighting finally ended when victorious North Vietnamese tanks battered their way into the grounds of Doc Lap palace in Saigon on April 30, 1975.

During the war China repeatedly denied US allegations that its soldiers were operating in Vietnam.

US intelligence reports at the time spoke of US combat units finding soldiers dressed in Chinese combat gear and wearing Chinese insignia.

S. Korean radical students end truce

SEOUL, May 16, (Reuters): South Korean student radicals ended a two-week truce today, hurling fire bombs at police in a Seoul campus battle and prompting a tear-gas barrage.

At the same time, leaders of radical student, worker and dissident organisations in Kwangju vowed 10 days of protests to recall a 1980 Army atrocity in that southwestern city.

In the centre of the capital about 400 students, chanting "Down with (President) Roh Tae-woo" and "Execute slaughters of Kwangju," rained rocks and petrol bombs on riot police outside the Confucian Sungkyunkwan University, witnesses said.

Police, who delayed reacting for some time, eventually dispersed the demonstrators with tear-gas.

It was the first such clash in South Korea since leaders of the main radical student group, Chondaebyong, and dissident organisations renounced the use of firebombs in anti-government demonstrations after the deaths of six policemen in a campus blaze set by militants on May 3.

In Kwangju, where about 200 died when the military crushed an armed popular uprising in May 1980, more than 7,000 students, workers and dissidents massed in an indoor gymnasium urging the overthrow of Roh's "dictatorial" government, eyewitnesses said.

There were no reports of clashes as protesters prepared a torch-lit street march to provincial government headquarters later in the evening.

Rally organisers vowed to continue similar protests until May 27, anniversary of the end of the 10-day, so-called Kwangju incident.

The government plans to deploy more than 7,000 riot police around Kwangju to head off violence but said it would allow scheduled mass rallies on a plaza outside the government building tomorrow and Thursday in memory of those killed during the uprising.

Tension ran especially high in the traditionally rebellious city following the discovery of a 24-year-old student activist's body in a lake last Wednesday.

Soviets end feud with Chinese

(Continued from Page 1)

hotheads who want to renovate the system overnight. Gorbachev said this was, of course, impossible," Gerasimov said quoting the Soviet leader.

"He said this does not happen overnight. It only happens in fairy tales," he said paraphrasing Gorbachev's words.

The students, whose number swelled to half a million tonight in central Tiananmen Square, are demanding Soviet-style reforms in China, including greater political and press freedoms.

Gerasimov said Gorbachev also raised the question of the demands of the students as expressed in their banners and slogans.

"We also have our slogans. They are similar to what our slogans, the slogans of our party were. After all who is more interested in renovating the system than the party that introduced the reforms," Gorbachev was quoted as saying.

When asked if Gorbachev's remarks about "hotheads" meant he was also referring to the Chinese students as such, Gerasimov stumbled and said unconvincingly that the Soviet

leader was referring to Soviet radicals only.

He then repeated: "We also have hotheads in what he said."

Gerasimov said Gorbachev brought up the idea of increased Sino-Soviet co-operation in the military sector during his talks with both Deng and Premier Li Peng.

He said the proposal included setting up a mechanism to monitor each other's troops on the border and more direct exchanges between the Soviet and Chinese military officials leading to an easing of tension and eventually a total demilitarisation of the border, once the scene of fierce armed clashes in the 1960's and continued sporadic incidents, one as late as July 1986.

"He proposed to broaden military contacts and ties. It was one of the ideas we aired. We hope the Chinese side will accept it. We have such contacts with NATO military organisations why not with the Chinese," Gerasimov said.

"We want the Soviet-Chinese border to be protected only by friendship. Of course we know that this will not happen overnight," Gerasimov said.

Rights 'violations continue in Sri Lanka'

COLOMBO, May 16, (AP): Indian and Sri Lankan officials in Colombo declined today comment on an Amnesty International report that security forces of the two countries continue to violate human rights in this island nation.

In New Delhi, Indian Foreign Ministry officials said they were waiting to see a copy of the report by the London-based human rights organisation before commenting on it. All the officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Amnesty International report dated May 1989 said Sri Lankan security forces and Indian

peacekeeping troops have illegally detained and caused the disappearance of hundreds of suspected rebels despite the lifting of emergency laws that had allowed detention without trial.

Amnesty said both Indian and Sri Lankan security forces have denied any knowledge of the arrests of those who allegedly disappeared.

The 45-page report called "Sri Lanka - continuing human rights violations" said 780 people had disappeared in Sri Lanka since emergency regulations were imposed in 1983 when the Tamil minority embarked on a violent campaign.

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Helen
36 years in politics

Suzman retiring

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, May 16, (UPI): Helen Suzman, the doyen of South Africa's white Parliament and one of the country's most prominent critics of apartheid, has decided to retire from 36 years in parliamentary politics.

Suzman, 71, told her constituency committee in the Johannesburg suburb of Houghton last night that she would not seek re-election in general elections Sept 6, ending a career in Parliament that began in 1953.

Once a lone voice of dissent in the white Parliament, Suzman told the committee her resignation would make way for younger people.

A critic of economic sanctions as a way to force political change in white ruled South Africa, Suzman was one of the few politicians granted permission to meet with jailed-for-life African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela on a relatively regular basis.

Weary Beirut doctors battle to save lives during shelling

BEIRUT, May 16, (AP): Overworked, understaffed and sometimes shell-shocked, doctors at Lebanon's largest hospital deal with constant stress while tending to the flood of casualties from the latest outbreak of civil war.

"I'm so worn out I sometimes lock myself in my room and cry, just cry," a 26-year-old doctor named Pierre moaned as he weaved through the rows of casualties from the artillery battles between Christians and Muslims.

"We go through this almost every day," he said as ambulances manned by volunteer rescue teams screeched up to

the tree-shaped entrance to the emergency ward of the American University hospitals in West Beirut.

He and the other interns in white robes rushed to aid the victims, many screaming in pain or terror, as they were carried in on blood-stained stretchers.

Within minutes, the ward's long corridors were filled with the dead, the dying and the wounded. The moans and screams of the injured mingled with the urgent, clipped yells for plasma or bandages from doctors and nurses.

The AUH, part of the American University of Beirut, looked more like a

battlefield medical unit leader under fire than a teaching facility.

"We try to hold up in front of the patients, but inside we're really sick and tired of all this," Pierre, who asked that his last name not be used, said as he and his colleagues sorted out the seriously wounded for urgent attention.

By the end of his tour, 20 of the casualties had been pronounced dead; 36 others had undergone emergency surgery. Eighteen others, less seriously wounded, were treated and bandaged on the spot.

Pierre, his eyes red from lack of sleep,

winced when sirens wailed in the distance.

"Let's hope it's not more casualties," he said. "We've had enough."

By police count, nearly 300 people have been killed and more than 1,000 wounded in the often-indiscriminate artillery and rocket barrages that erupted March eight between Army Commander Gen Michel Aoun's mainly Christian forces and an alliance of Syrian troops and Muslim Druze militiamen.

Most of the doctors and nurses at the AUH, a sprawling complex in the

much-shelled commercial Hamra district, are veterans of Lebanon's 14 years of civil war and factional bloodletting.

Najat Daou, a paediatrician who treats wounded children, said the hardest part of her job is when parents, shocked with grief, plead with her to bring a dead child back to life.

She told how a 13-year-old girl staggered into the emergency ward a few days ago holding the limp body of her 7-year-old brother under her right arm. Her father, mother and four sisters were all killed when a shell hit home in the low-income Mousseibeh district.

Pretoria frees activists

Petition campaign

PORT ELIZABETH, May 16, (AP): The two best-known black activists still detained without charge were freed today after nearly three years in jail, but they were placed under night-time house arrest and barred from political activity.

Henry Fazzie, 65, and Mkhuzeli Jack, 31, led community groups in Port Elizabeth's black townships which were affiliated with the United Democratic Front, a now-banned anti-apartheid coalition. They were principal organisers of a highly effective black consumers boycott of white-owned stores in 1985-86.

They were detained along with several fellow-activists in August 1986, two months after President P.W. Botha declared a national state of emergency. An estimated 30,000 activists have been held without charge for varying periods during the emergency, although all but a few dozen have been freed.

Fazzie, Jack and four activists were released today from St



Consentious objectors delivered a box containing over 5,000 cards to the Ministry of Justice protesting against the jailing of men who refuse to undergo military conscription in South Africa. (Reuter wirephoto)

Albans prison in Port Elizabeth, ending speculation that the government might lodge treason charges against them. Fazzie's wife, Beauty, and several other activists were freed last week.

Pretoria defends whites only public schools

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, May 16, (AP): The official in charge of education for whites yesterday rejected suggestions that some children of other races be allowed into segregated white public schools.

"I refuse to raise the expectations of hundreds of thousands of pupils and parents of other races, knowing that it is not possible to meet them in this manner," said Piet Claes in a speech in parliament.

Claes said a majority of white voters wanted to retain segregated schools. He said integration "would be fraught with very practical difficulties,"

including linguistic differences, the generally long distances between segregated black and white residential areas, and "possible social tensions."

Many anti-apartheid leaders have complained that facilities in white schools are underutilized, while schools for the black majority suffer from overcrowding and teacher shortages.

Claes said he was sympathetic to the needs of other races, "but I am also sensitive to the needs of the community my department was established to serve."

Ligachev hits out at Ivanov on probe

MOSCOW, May 16, (UPI): Conservative politburo member Yegor Ligachev today publicly denounced a public prosecutor for linking his name with a corruption scandal in a bid to win a parliamentary seat.

In a brief dispatch entitled "Televised disinformation" carried by the official Novosti news agency, Ligachev said he had submitted a statement to the special commission investigating two popular public prosecutors, parliamentary candidate Nikolai Ivanov, and his colleague Telman Gdlyan.

The two made a name for themselves in the successful prosecution last December of Yuri Churbanov, son-in-law of the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev.

Ivanov, after publicly daring to criticize Ligachev in a television debate Friday night, was elected a member of the new Congress of Peoples Deputies on Sunday.

Novosti, a news agency reputed to have links to the KGB, said it had "reliably" informed that Ligachev had drawn attention of the investigators to "the fact that he had been accused of complicity in illegal acts."

"For political purposes, Ivanov in his election speech broadcast by Leningrad Television on the eve of the run-off elections of Peoples Deputies of the USSR, alleged that Ligachev was involved in the crime he was currently investigating."

"Yegor Ligachev has resolutely denied these allegations and called the attention of the commission to the fact that the slanderous statement was intended as political provocation."

"He insists that the case be thoroughly considered and the results be reported in the press," Novosti added.

During the television programme, Ivanov dropped Ligachev's name in vague remarks about the fight against corruption and the Soviet mafia. The remarks appear to have angered the authorities so much, that radio, television and newspapers said Ivanov, and Telman Gdlyan, his chief in the Churbanov case who had also made outspoken remarks, would themselves be investigated.

Novosti's statement on the case indicated, diplomats said, that Ivanov is unlikely to get away with his remarks lightly.

Reformers gain in polls

MOSCOW, May 16, (AP): Reformers gained more seats in the new Soviet Parliament in Sunday's second-round election, with the most resounding victory going to a criminal investigator who charged corruption at the highest levels.

Prosecutor Nikolai Ivanov won the Leningrad seat with 61 per cent against 33 opponents, two days after saying in a televised debate that his investigation touched on Politburo member Yegor Ligachev. He made no specific charge.

But pro-democracy activists in the Soviet Union's second-largest city opposed Ivanov, saying he used Stalinist methods in his investigations.

Other voters were reformers barred from the ballot on their first try, including editor Vitaly Korotich, whose magazine Ogonyok has infuriated conservatives with sensational reports on the past and present.



Walesa on the stump

RACLAWICE, Poland, May 16, (AP): Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, stumping for the opposition in the countryside yesterday, used the site of a famous peasant uprising against Russia to urge farmers to vote for his candidates to the National Assembly next month.

The Solidarity chief donned a folk costume (above) with a feathered cap, but laid down a proffered weapon when speaking to 5,000 rural residents on Pentecost yesterday, a traditional farmers' holiday.

"Don't stand aside," Walesa told the crowd, referring to plans by some Poles to boycott the elections. "Poland belongs to you and you have to make it better."

It was the latest campaign swing by Walesa in Solidarity's fight to elect its slate to the National Assembly in elections June 4, the first democratic voting in post-war Poland.

With only 19 days until the vote, Walesa is a much-sought guest speaker by candidates for the Solidarity Citizens Committee — the group he set up to direct the opposition's campaign.

The crowd spread out over the grass and up a steep copse at the Racławice battlefield near Krakow in southern Poland, where peasant legions armed with scythes and commanded by Tadeusz Kosciuszko defeated a Czarist army in 1794. (Reuter wirephoto)

Getting to job is hard in Cairo Nerve-racking

CAIRO, May 16, (Reuters): "It's a nerve-racking journey, a muffled voice from the huddle of humanity," said a bus crawling along a Cairo street.

The driver, sweating in the early summer heat, fought to close the automatic doors but weary passengers clinging to the outside of the vehicle had jammed them.

The scene was not unusual in the Egyptian capital of 12 million people — where commuting is a nerve-racking ordeal that can take hours.

"Theft is the least important problem. I don't mind being robbed of some money once a year if everything else is okay," said Mohammed Tawfik, who lives in Cairo's Giza suburb and works at a factory in Helwan 30 km (20 miles) to the south.

Women bus passengers often complain of sexual harassment.

"Going on a bus is a humiliating but compulsory practice which I would say violates basic human rights," a woman teacher said.

"Solving this problem should be on top of government priorities. Would any senior official keep silent if his wife or daughter were badly treated on a bus?"

Cairo, which sprawls 50 km (30 miles) along the Nile and hosts all government ministries and a centralised bureaucracy, must cope with a daily influx of two to three million people from all over the country.

During the 1950s and 1960s, state industrial projects were concentrated round the city, drawing more job seekers from the countryside.

Syrians bombard Christian coast

Klibi meets Shara in Syria

BEIRUT, May 16, (Agencies): Syrian and Druze gunners blasted the Christian coast north of Beirut today as the Arab League sought to consolidate a ceasefire called six days ago to halt the latest round of civil war.

Despite the hostilities, the mid-city museum crossing between the two sectors of Beirut was reopened to motorists, pedestrians and trucked food and fuel supplies after a nine-week shutdown forced by the fighting.

Police said the sporadic bombardment was aimed at preventing ships suspected of carrying arms from docking at the Christian ports of Byblos and Amsheet, some 19 miles (30 kilometres) north of the capital.

At least 60 shells and rockets landed on a two-mile (three-kilometre) coastal strip between the two harbours in 12 hours beginning at midnight (2100 GMT yesterday), police reported.

The Syrians and their Druze Muslim allies have charged that Army commander Gen. Michel

Aoun's 20,000 mostly Christian units have been getting arms and ammunition from Iraq through Byblos and Amsheet.

They declared they would keep on shelling the Christian coast despite an "inland truce" proclaimed by the Arab League last Thursday to halt two months of artillery duels that weakened havoc to Beirut's Muslim and Christian sectors.

Anti-aircraft rounds also crackled over the divided city as Aoun's 9th Brigade duelled with Syrian troops and Druze militiamen across the downtown old commercial district straddling the Beirut port, police said.

No casualties were reported from today's skirmishes. By police count, 359 people were killed and 1,393 wounded since the fighting erupted March 8 between Aoun's troops and their Syrian and Druze foes.

In Damascus, Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi discussed the ceasefire in Lebanon with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara today, diplomats said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Scholarship

UNITED NATIONS, May 16, (KUNA): The UN Correspondents Association (UNCA) yesterday asked journalists from the Arab world to apply for a three-month scholarship to cover the 44th session of the General Assembly next fall.

The association's Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial Scholarship Fund grants fellowships every year to three promising journalists from developing nations to cover the UN forum.

"We are afraid we will not be able to choose an Arab journalist this year because we received only 12 applications from Arab countries compared to 150 from Africa and South Asia, the fund's officers said.

British hostages

LONDON, May 16, (Reuters): A British member of parliament said yesterday Libyan authorities had invited him for talks in Beirut about the release of British hostages there.

Opposition Labour parliamentarian Ron Brown made public a letter from the Libyan government to him, saying Tripoli would "do anything you recommend to secure the release of individuals held hostage."

The letter expressed opposition to terrorism, and continued: "We invite you to visit Beirut to discuss your proposals with our local representatives."

Islamic shura

TEHRAN, May 16, (KUNA): Iran has decided to change the name of its shura (consultative) council to Islamic shura, Radio Tehran reported today.

The radio said a decision to this effect was taken yesterday by a panel charged with revising the country's constitution.

The radio added the meeting decided to retain the number of representatives of the council at 270 members on condition that one deputy be added for one million persons every ten years.

Two beheaded

RIYADH, May 16, (Reuters): Two Saudi men were beheaded today in Saudi Arabia today after a month-long break in public executions.

An Interior Ministry statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency, said a Yemeni citizen convicted of murder and a Saudi national found guilty of raping and killing a young girl were beheaded in a public square in the southern town of Jizan.

Anti-Americanism

NICOSIA, Cyprus, May 16, (AP): Iranian President Ali Khamenei was quoted as saying that anti-Americanism could be the most important factor in the co-operation between Iran and North Korea.

Khamenei, currently on a tour of the Far East, made the statement during a meeting with North Korean President Kim Il-Sung. His statement was broadcast by Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia.

Khamenei said that the United States was hostile to progressive countries and threatened progressive governments in different parts of the world.

Plane turns back

CAIRO, May 16, (Reuters): A plane carrying a minister from the UAE returned to Cairo today an hour after take-off because of a broken cockpit window and engine trouble, an airport official said.

The air traffic control official said the German plane, with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi and five assistants on board, ran into trouble at 4,500 feet (1,370 metres).

He said it landed safely and no one was hurt but the cause of the damage was unknown.

Iran hangs 10

NICOSIA, May 16, (Reuters): Iran hanged 10 drug traffickers in public today, taking the total executed this year to 489.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said the 10 had been found guilty of handling a tonne of opium and 350 grams (less than a pound) of heroin. They were executed in Gorgan and Lahijan, both near the Caspian coast.

Extradition postponed

ATHENS, May 16, (UPI): Greece today postponed till after the June 18 general elections its decision on whether or not to extradite Mohammad Rashid, a Palestinian wanted in the United States to face charges of terrorism.

The decision came four days after the Greek Supreme Court ruled in favour of the extradition of Rashid, 35, who is wanted in the United States on charges he was responsible for a bomb explosion on board a Pan American airliner over Hawaii.

One person was killed and 15 were injured in the blast.

The court decision, taken amid terrorist attacks and threats against members of the Greek judiciary, was not binding on the government of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu.

Man accused of plotting to sell nerve gas

NEWARK, New Jersey, May 16, (AP): Closing remarks were expected to begin today in the trial of a Korean-born businessman accused of trying to export nerve gas to Iran.

On Monday, US district judge H. Lee Sarokin ruled that the prosecution could not mention allegations that Juwhan Yun bribed Korean officials to secure previous deals with that country. Sarokin based his ruling on lack of evidence presented by assistant US attor-

ney Mark Olinsky made to support the charge.

The Korean officials were not named during the hearing, and Olinsky and defence attorney Stephen Dratch both refused comment outside the courtroom.

During the hearing, Olinsky referred to a conversation in which he said Yun told an undercover US customs service agent posing as an arms dealer that he could secure a deal

with the South Korean government.

The agent, Richard Kennan, asked if the deal was illegal. "That's my job," Yun answered, according to government transcripts of the taped conversation.

Yun, owner of the summit, New Jersey-based export company, Komex International, is accused of trying to export the deadly nerve gas sarin to Iran.

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Egypt dives back into maelstrom of Arab politics

CAIRO, May 16, (Reuters): Egypt takes the formal plunge back into the maelstrom of Arab politics next week when President Hosni Mubarak attends an emergency Arab summit in Morocco.

For the decade since it made peace with Israel, provoking an Arab boycott, Egypt has patiently waited on the sidelines of Arab affairs for the tide of opinion to turn in its favour.

Now, Egyptian and foreign political analysts say, it is back in the Arab mainstream, yet still able to transmit ideas across the Arab-Israeli divide.

Prominent Egyptian commentator Makram Mohammed Ahmed saw Egypt's attendance at the emergency summit as a vindication of its policy of promoting Arab rights through negotiation.

The emergency summit was originally called by moderate Morocco to give fresh impetus to conciliatory policies of the PLO which announced in November its recognition of Israel's right to exist.

But Lebanon's fratricidal conflict has since pushed itself on to the agenda of the summit opening in Casablanca

on May 23 and the analysts said Egypt was likely to play a moderating role.

Syria, which along with Lebanon and Libya has not restored diplomatic relations with Egypt, announced three days ago it would not try to block Mubarak's attendance at the summit.

Both Presidents Assad and Mubarak have made friendly remarks about each

other in the past few days and diplomats expect they will meet on the margins of the summit, clearing the way for a resumption of diplomatic ties.

The analysts said Egypt's formal return to the Arab League culminated a process which had its roots in the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, when Cairo threw its weight behind Baghdad.

Gulf Arab states then saw Egypt -- the most populous Arab state with one of the region's most powerful armed forces -- as a counterweight to Iran's revolutionary zeal.

Another factor has been Mubarak's careful distancing of Egypt from the Camp David accords signed by his predecessor Anwar Sadat, assassinated by religious zealots in 1981.

Council may replace Khomeini

Wrangle over Iran leadership

NICOSIA, May 16, (AP): Iran's leaders have set to work once again on who Iran's supreme leader will be after Ayatollah Khomeini dies. The latest signs are that he may be replaced by more than one man.

The leadership question was thrown wide open last month after Khomeini forced his designated heir, Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, to resign following his criticism of Iranian policies.

Khomeini, 88 and ailing, then named a 20-man committee of Iran's leading political, clerical and legal figures to settle the leadership question and to draft amendments to the December 1979 revolutionary constitution.



Rafsanjani: member

Indications are that since no one appears to have the charisma or religious authority of the ageing revolutionary patriarch, the committee could decide that Iran should be led in the future by a council of three to five men.

Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is the frontrunner in presidential elections later this year, is one likely member of the collective leadership, which presumably would embrace Iran's various factions.

He secured an important endorsement last month from Tehran's Etebat daily, whose publisher, Mahmoud Dostli is close to Khomeini. It declared: "Mr Rafsanjani has the qualifications to head a leadership council."

Foreign analysts say other possible candidates are likely to include Ayatollah Ali Meshkini,

radical chairman of the 83-member Assembly of Experts, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, a leading member of the 13-man Council of Guardians, chief Justice Ayatollah Musavi Ardebili, a centrist, and Khomeini's son Ahmed, a key power-broker who is showing increasing signs of political ambitions after years in his father's shadow.

In naming the committee to study the future of Iran's leadership, Khomeini said the constitution contained "imperfections and flaws". He did not specify these, but warned that any delay in the amendments would bring "plagues and bitter consequences for the country and the revolution."

One of the constitutional committee's tasks is to decide whether to scrap or downgrade the post of prime minister and broaden the executive powers of the presidency.

The committee is expected to present its recommendations in advance of the presidential elections to be held between July 22 and Aug 22, before incumbent Ali Khamenei's second four-year term expires in September. He cannot run for a third term.

The current swing toward the anti-Western radicals dates from Feb 14, when Khomeini issued his death sentence on British author Salman Rushdie for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his novel, "The Satanic Verses."

But Khomeini has been known to throw his weight behind one faction or another every few months in a delicate balancing act that prevents any group from becoming too powerful.

Some analysts suspect Khomeini may already be swinging back toward Rafsanjani's so-called pragmatists.

Strained Saudi-Iran ties worsen

Renewed war of words

RIYADH, May 16, (AP): The already strained relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran appeared to worsen yesterday with Iran rejecting an invitation to a meeting of Islamic affairs ministers hosted by the kingdom, diplomats reported.

The Iranian rejection comes during a renewed war of words between the two countries over the Iranian quota for the annual haj.

The diplomats said Iran was angry because Saudi Arabia was again sticking fast to the quota system initiated last year.

Iran had been trying to exert pressure through third countries, especially Pakistan, for a larger Iranian contingent this July, said the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In April 1988, Saudi Arabia ruptured diplomatic ties with Iran. It cited Iran's repeated attacks on Gulf shipping lanes during the Iran-Iraq war and above all the demonstrations by Iranian pilgrims during the haj season of 1987 in which 402 people died.

Saudi Arabia last year started limiting each country to 1,000 pilgrims per million of population. The Saudi government said it was necessary due to renovations in the holy cities. Under the quota system Iran can send only 45,000 pilgrims, less than one-third of the 150,000-strong contingent that was present in 1987.

Iran boycotted the pilgrimage last year over the quota issue and appears headed for similar action this year, said the diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The invitation to the fourth conference of the Islamic ministers of wakfs (endowments) and religious affairs was issued following Iran's participation in the conference of Islamic foreign ministers hosted by Riyadh in March.

Relations at that conference of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) were cordial. King Fahd, after the August ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, ordered a halt to anti-Iran media campaigns.

The diplomatic sources said the Iranians, who had initially indicated they would participate in the upcoming meeting, had decided not to attend.

A prominent item on the agenda of the four-day conference, hosted by the Saudi Minister Abdel Wahab Abdel Wase'i, will be co-ordination and co-operation among Islamic states in "confronting atheistic destructive trends and distortion campaigns by enemies of the Islamic faith."

The meeting will also deal with the issue of Islamic minorities "and the pressures they confront," as well as bolstering the task of Islamic preachers abroad and the challenges confronting the Islamic nation, said conference officials.

Blasts
A Saudi Arabian newspaper, ending a seven-month lull in anti-Iranian invective, slammed Tehran today.

"Tehran's behaviour indicates that its rulers seem to have learned no lesson from the past," An Nadwa paper said. "They insist on committing the same errors and ignoring Islamic and Saudi efforts to resolve inter-Muslim differences."

An Nadwa said quota limits, which apply to all countries, were agreed by the ICO last year.

"Had Iran harboured good will it would have abided by the decision, taking into consideration that the behaviour of Iranian pilgrims was much to blame," the paper said.

"Since when were the staging of demonstrations, the hoisting of pictures and political slogans, anarchy and killing, the basic principles of haj ...?" An Nadwa said.

Sudan, UAE patch up relations

Hostage-taker rearrested

SHARJAH, May 16, (Agencies): Sudanese security forces rearrested Isam Abdul Rahman Abdullah who had stormed the UAE embassy in Khartoum in November 1988, held the UAE ambassador and other embassy members hostage, a high ranking Sudanese source said.

The daily Al Khaleej, published here today, said Isam was taken into custody yesterday as a precautionary measure and after the Sudanese security forces gathered new information.

The development patched up a strain in the

relations between the two Arab states.

"Sheikh Zayed has accepted Mirghani's request to have the UAE ambassador return (to Khartoum)," said Sudan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sayed Ahmed Al Hussein.

Al Hussein told a news conference Mirghani who will return home today will take the UAE Ambassador, Mohammed Sultan, back to Khartoum on his private plane.

Algeria's National Liberation Front to change constitution

ALGIERS, May 16, (Reuters): Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) will hold an extraordinary national congress in October to adapt its constitution to a multiparty system.

The FLN central committee fixed the date for October 28 to 30 at a meeting in Algiers yesterday, the official news agency

APS reported.

The FLN controlled all political activity in Algeria from independence in 1962 until riots last October forced the government of President Chadli Benjedid to rethink the system.

Scores of new independent parties have sprung up this year but they do not get a

legal status because the FLN remains on paper the only political organisation.

APS said the October Congress would draw up a new political programme, amend the party constitution and elect new central committee member in the light of the amendments.

At a regular Congress last November

the FLN agreed to reduce its links with the state and turn itself into a broad front embracing different opinions. It did not, however, give a firm promise that a multiparty system was imminent.

Police arrested 90 people in connection with riots in the east Algerian town of Souk Ahras last Wednesday.

Rebels rocket Kabul, kill three

KABUL, May 16 (Reuters): Afghan Muslim rebels rocketed Kabul today as the government reported repulsing a fresh attack on the southern garrison town of Khost with heavy mujahedeen losses.

Seven rockets hit the Afghan capital, killing three people.

One narrowly missed the departure lounge of the airport. The others landed in the Kheirkhana area of Kabul, near the airport, destroying three houses, government spokesman Mohammad Amani said.

All the rockets were apparently aimed at the airport, to which Soviet planes airlift essential supplies for the capital.

Amani said government troops killed 723 mujahedeen rebels yesterday when they beat off a rebel infantry attack against Khost. Heavy fighting was continuing around the town, near the Pakistani border.

Army units based in Kabul fired at least four long-range Scud-B missiles southwards in an apparent bid to relieve pressure on government troops and hit rebel positions.

Amani said the Air Force was playing a major role in the battle for Khost. He declined to give a figure for government casualties.



Playing a mute girl

Seventeen-year-old Navin Chowdhry from Bristol, England, who plays a mute Arab orphan in the 'King of the Wind'. (Reuters wirephoto)

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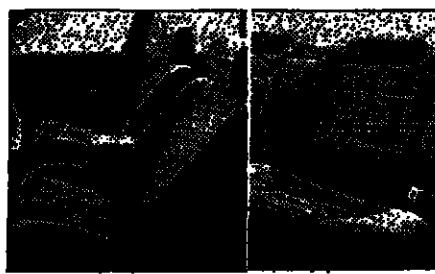
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Handicapped feel shunned by society

'We are treated like extra-terrestrials'

THOSE who are physically handicapped are classified in various forms and categories. Hence, it is possible to overcome some of these forms and attain a high level of normality.

A handicap caused by an amputated part of the body for example, could be replaced by an artificial one. Other handicap cases like the loss of hearing could be replaced by electronic hearing aids.

Proper medical guidance accompanied with strong self confidence provide a handicapped person with the ability to strengthen to one of his other senses, according to one of the handicapped. He added that despite the vast spread of special education institutes and schools, many society members still so far believe that the handicapped are an unproductive group of people hindering the progress in the country.

He said that the view of society on handicapped, unfortunately causes them frustration and lowers their self esteem. "This is a wrong view, we are not aliens, but humans like you," he said.

"The history of mankind proved that some handicapped persons made things that normal humans could not. Many of them became famous at several

fields like arts, mathematics and even science," he said.

Abdullah Thunayan Al Ghanem, the general secretary of the Kuwaiti Handicapped Club said the club was established in 1977 to integrate the handicapped into the mainstream of society by making them productive. He added that the club aims to strengthening the social ties between the handicapped and society members through different cultural, social and art activities at the club. "In addition to these activities the club is fully concerned with handicapped sports," he added.

"The club is obligated to provide an adequate atmosphere under a frame of freedom and equality," he said. He stressed that the Kuwaiti Handicapped Club is open to both sexes and all nationalities have the right to benefit from its services and utilities. Handicapped may join the club as permanent members without paying any membership fees. He said members should be of good conduct and should be above 12 years old.

Interviewed by a local daily, Ghanem indicated that the club has 381 handicapped members, 247 Kuwaitis and 134 non-Kuwaitis.

"The club welcomes volunteers from both sexes to help the club accomplish its objectives towards giving handicapped members the opportunity to participate in the public life of the society," he said.

The club will grant volunteers who presented financial or vital services a honorary membership after the approval of the administration. The club's board of directors will honour volunteers who extend distinguished services for handicapped after the approval of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

The club established a cultural and educational library which includes a large variety of scientific and arts books, in addition to films covering the club's activities locally and internationally. The club's current plan for 1989 cultural activity includes a sea trip to Failaka and organising a number of cultural contests next June.

The government has provided employment for 138 handicapped of both sexes. Ghanem stated that the new Kuwaiti Handicapped Club building located at Al Istiqlal Street will be opened at the end of this year. The new building will provide handicapped with wider grounds, better utilities and other services.

On the other hand, the employment analyst at the personnel department of the Kuwait National Petroleum Company, Yusuf Al Shayji said that the handicap definition may vary from one society to another depending on the cultural and awareness levels of that society. He stressed that the media could play an important part in order to develop society members awareness towards handicapped.

Abdul Mehzen Habib, a financial advisor at Kuwait Municipality said that the Gulf region looks at handicapped as persons who need kindness and permanent health care irrespective of its level of awareness.

A number of handicapped club members were interviewed to highlight their opinions.

A large section of handicapped said that they are qualified to have families. They stated that many society members still believe that our handicap is inherited. They pointed out that they are isolated from society and that they are treated like extra-terrestrials.

"Some families may hide their handicapped children because of exposure and people talk," according to Jamila Al Kindari.

British charity arriving

Palestinian aid society to collect donations

KUWAIT, May 16, (KUNA): A delegation representing a medical aid for Palestinian society to collect donations for the injured and handicapped Palestinians will arrive here at the end of this month.

The British charity society was established following the Israeli invasion of Sabra and Shatilla camps in 1982, during which thousands of children and women were killed.

Booklets

The society actually began its operations when British doctor Saeed Chai Ang, who is of Singaporean origin, led a British medical team to Beirut in June 1985 responding to the relief calls from the Palestinian camps.

The society called on the world community to exert efforts to end

the Palestinian sufferings in the occupied territories, and organised campaigns to collect donations all over the world.

The society has announced in its leaflets and booklets that its capabilities are still little compared to the number of Palestinians in need of help.

The society is currently working in the Gaza Strip and hopes to establish medical clinics in different places. It reconstructed the hospitals and clinics in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon which were destroyed by the Lebanese war.

The society has announced that the places which most need help are the Arab occupied lands where more than one and a half million people live, and that more than ten thousand Palestinians were injured since the start of the uprising.

Arab media facing many challenges

CAIRO, May 16, (KUNA): The Arab world will have to brace up in the next decade for a number of challenges, topped by the new telecommunications technology, said a Kuwaiti media leader here last night.

Dr Mohammed Al Rumaihi, editor of *Al Arabi* magazine published by the Kuwait Information Ministry, told a symposium on prospects of Arab advertising, underway here, that the consumer in the Arab area is being exposed to a multitude of superior and high-quality commercials from the outside.

In comparison, he indicated, the information media in Arab states, which suffer from meagre resources, are becoming more dependent on government financial support and advertisement sales to meet their own expenses.

The process of news-making, Rumaihi underlined, is mostly handled by non-independent sides and interests.

The media leader pointed out to the role of mass media in creating public awareness and cited the example of setting up consumer protection societies in most of the Arab countries with the aim of defending rights of the individuals.

"By the end of next decade," he predicted, "these societies will develop into entities capable of playing a social role in supervising publicity and advertisement campaigns."

Referring to the impact of the economic crisis in the Arab homeland, Rumaihi said it will adversely affect the individual's purchasing power and threaten recession in the sector of non-essential commodities.

He said the next decade, far from being one of prosperity, will bring about considerable changes in the consumption pattern and habits, which social institutions should prepare to deal with in order to reduce possible negative effects.

POLICE BEAT

Car thief nabbed

DETECTIVES of the Criminal Investigation Department of Sharq have arrested a 20-year-old youth on charge of stealing cars.

The suspect confessed to having stolen 60 cars and robbed more than 10 different shops in various locations in the country.

The accused had earlier been confined at Kuwait Central Prison for several years but was released by the last Amiri amnesty.

The suspect said that the last car he stole was a Mercedes whose Saudi owner had left the ignition key in the car.

The suspect was arrested at home by a police force who raided his residence in Sulaibikhat.

Morphine stolen

INVESTIGATIONS are in progress to uncover the circumstances leading to the disappearance of five tubes of morphine from the Sulaibiya health centre, each containing 15 mg of the drug.

Initial reports confirm that the culprit knew where the drug was kept which has lead authorities to believe that the theft was committed by one of the hospital's staff.

As morphine is in the category

of dangerous drugs it is always kept in a locked cupboard according to the regulations. The key was in the possession of the head nurse, sources said.

Bank robbery

IN the issue of *Arab Times* on May 13 it was reported that the Real Estate Bank in Fahaheel was robbed by thieves using automatic weapons. A source at the bank has said that this incident occurred seven years ago and not recently as a local Arabic daily initially stated.

Holiday directives

KUWAIT, May 16, (Reuters): Kuwait on Monday issued a list of directives to its citizens urging them to look out for swindlers while on summer holidays abroad.

The 20-point list issued by the Foreign Ministry told citizens not to carry large sums of money or jewellery and use credit cards as much as possible.

The directives, reported by the official Kuwait News Agency, also urged Kuwaitis not to leave shopping bags unattended, to consult a lawyer before signing any legal documents and keep an eye out for fake gems and products.

Fishermen lost at sea

THREE Egyptian fishermen have been announced lost at sea after entering the prohibited zone near Bubiyan Island last week.

According to a local daily, the three were working on a boat belonging to a Kuwaiti national identified as Mohammed Al Ali. The fishermen's boat was chased by a cruiser of the Kuwaiti Coast Guard (carrying six guards) for trespassing into prohibited waters.

In the course of the chase, the cruiser's fuel ran out and the boat drifted into Iraqi territorial waters. The cruiser and the crew were taken to the Iraqi Umm Qasr port by Iraqi Navy personnel. The boat and the crew returned to Kuwait shortly.

However, till now there has been no information on the fate of the three fishermen.

The owner of the Kuwaiti vessel, Ali said that he had warned his fishermen against approaching the prohibited area, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministries of Interior and Defence.

He was at a loss to explain the reasons as to why the fishermen were fishing in the prohibited zone.

Relevant authorities are conducting a search for the boat and the crew, the daily said.

NAM at a turning point — Osaimi

KUWAIT, May 16, (KUNA): State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Saoud Mohammed Al Osaimi flew to Harare today, where he will take part in tomorrow's ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement co-ordinating bureau.

Osaimi told KUNA prior to departure that the bureau would draft the agenda for NAM's ninth summit, scheduled for Belgrade in September.

The Kuwaiti official underlined the importance of the bureau meeting, saying the movement is at a turning point and needs to unify its ranks in view of the growing international détente.

He indicated that the Harare meeting would discuss the Arab-Israeli dispute in light of the Palestinian uprising and the international support that the

PLO has received.

Osaimi pointed out that abolition of racial discrimination in South Africa and Third World economic problems mainly foreign debts would feature prominently in the bureau's deliberations.

Osaimi was accompanied by a delegation of Foreign Ministry officials. They will be joined in Harare by Kuwait's UN permanent envoy, Mohammed Abu Al Hassan.

Replying to a query, the minister stressed that Kuwait is playing a substantial role in activating the movement in face of international challenges.

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231 farmers applying for loans

SALEH ALYUSEF, chairman and managing director of the Industrial Bank of Kuwait (IBK), has said that a total of 231 farmers submitted their applications for loans related to the development of agricultural projects since the bank initiated this facility this year.

However, only 12 from the total applicants have submitted complete project proposals which are being evaluated by officials of the bank to determine their feasibility, Yousef said.

The official added that the total amount of loans requested for this purpose until mid April 1989 amounted to KD1.5 million. Individual loans range between KD37,500 to KD767,000.

The bank provides every assistance to farmers in the development of their agricultural needs. The loans will assist farmers to develop their agricultural projects by using state-of-the-art equipments and technologies to increase their production which will in turn provide profitable short and long-term returns.

These loans are being provided at interest rates of only 2.5 per cent which is a move designed to achieve food security and self sufficiency in foodstuffs, the official said.

He added that the bank will follow up agricultural projects to those farmers who have availed of the bank's loan facility. Such follow-up will be comprehensive viewed from the financial, technical, administrative and marketing angles. This monitoring by the bank is to ensure that the money is diligently utilised for the sole purpose it was intended.

Legal action will be instituted against any debtor of such loans who do not comply with the agreed stipulations or the recommendations of the bank.

The bank has financed more than 220 industrial projects over the last 15 years. The total amount of loans disbursed amounted to KD280 million. The bank also co-operates with other commercial banks to offer facilities for industrial projects. The bank charges 5 per cent interest on industrial loans, Yousef said.



Sultan Qaboos congratulating the graduates.

Academy shapes heroes

Amir patronises Army graduation

KUWAIT, May 16, (KUNA): HH the Amir and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Tuesday patronised the graduation ceremony of the 20th batch of the Military Academy's cadet officers on the academy's premises in the attendance of his honoured guest Sultan Qaboos Bin Saoud of Oman.

Following verses of the Holy Quran, head of the academy Colonel Farhan Al Farhan delivered a speech vowing that the academy will remain the place that graduate heroes to shield their country.

HH and Sultan Qaboos then handed the awards and certificates to the outstanding officers who proved their skills in the various military activities.

Following the conclusion of the ceremony, HH the Amir and Sultan Qaboos spent a period of time at the officers club, where on

the occasion they signed their names in the visitors book before their motorcade left the academy.

The ceremony was attended by the head of the National Guard, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, sheikhs, ministers, top state officials, senior officials and parents of the graduate officers.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad, in a statement to reporters, expressed his pleasure over HH's patronage of the graduation ceremony besides the presence of Kuwait's honourable guest Sultan Qaboos.

Sheikh Nawaf also congratulated the graduate officers and hoped them to continue in defending Kuwait's sovereignty and security under the leadership of HH the Amir and HH the Crown

Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

Out of 156 cadets enrolling at the academy, 153 graduated as officers, among them were 9 Bahrainis, 10 Qataris in addition to 22 officers from the National Guard.

Sultan Qaboos and the accompanying delegation later Tuesday left Kuwait after a three-day official visit in response to an official invitation by His Highness the Amir.

Sultan Qaboos was seen off at the airport by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah and other senior high ranking officials.

Both leaders exchanged cables of greetings after the end of Sultan Qaboos' visit to Kuwait.

Sultan Qaboos Tuesday arrived in Amman for talks with King Hussein on war, peace and economics ahead of a pan-Arab summit due to be held this month.

Hussein, Prime Minister Zeid Bin Shaker and other senior officials met Sultan Qaboos as he arrived at Marka military airport near Amman to start a three-day visit.

Oman's Ambassador to Jordan, Mohammed Bin Sultan Al Bousaeed, said the two leaders would discuss Arab-Israeli peace prospects, the Lebanese civil war and developments in the Gulf region, as well as bilateral economic co-operation.

The ambassador noted that the talks come a few days before a pan-Arab summit scheduled for May 23 in the Moroccan city of Casablanca.

"His Majesty the Sultan is always concerned to exchange views and consult King Hussein on all that is of interest to the Arab world," Al Bousaeed said.



Sultan Qaboos bidding farewell to diplomats at the airport.

New concepts

Individual needs basis for planning

KUWAIT'S Minister of Planning Dr Abdul Rahman Abdullah Al Awadi was quoted as saying that the next National Five-Year-Plan will derive its objectives based on the major principles of the current developmental plan with a special emphasis focussed on realising a balance between citizens and expatriates by the beginning of forthcoming century.

In an interview with Lebanon-based *Al Sayyad* magazine, the minister said that the new comprehensions in modern developmental thought were in agreement that meeting basic needs of the individuals represented the true criteria for the success of the developmental efforts. This represented the central goal, he added.

He clarified that Kuwait has paid great attention to the housing issue and has adopted several ideas for achieving this goal provided that solving the housing problem should not be at the expense of any other social or economic issues.

He added that the National Housing Plan has called for reviewing of the low population density in some model areas and has also called for the possibility of enhancing the density through building houses on the vertical expansion concept.

Awadi said that the current Five-Year-Plan envisages enhancing the role of the private sector in the country's developmental process. The plan calls for transferring some activities from the public to the private sector.

Replying to a question whether the development plans were responsible for hampering agricultural development, the minister said: "In the past there were many obstacles to agricultural development in the country but with the progress achieved in the technological field, particularly in genetic engineering many impediments have been removed.

Speaking of the administrative development in the country, Awadi said that this issue is being given serious attention by the country's senior officials headed by HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

Commenting on the Kuwait social development following the Iran-Iraq war, the minister was quoted as saying that the war had created no remarkable social or economic problems in Kuwait. However the ceasefire between the two countries had created larger scope for economic development in the Arab Gulf area.

Awadi will leave today for Nairobi, leading Kuwait's delegation to the 15th session of board meeting of the UN Environment Programme.

The meeting will discuss arrangements to the UN conference on environment and development for the year 2000.

Phenomenon of the change in international weather, combating desertification, and problems related to international trade in transporting poisonous chemical materials will be reviewed.

The meeting will also review activating the UN role in reaching future policies in the light of international concern regarding environment.

School health almost ignored

THE director of Schools Health Department Dr Hussein Momen has deplored the lack of attention by the Ministries of Public Health and Education to school health, during a workshop held recently under the title "The Role Played By Nurses in Developing School Health Programmes, within the framework of the International Nursing Day."

He said that anti-polio vaccines cost the government only

KD50,000, which could provide protection to a whole generation, compared to KD10 million paid recently for the purchase of a medical equipment for the Makki Juma Centre which will benefit only a few.

He pointed out that existing school curricula are not devoted to raising health awareness. According to studies by the health education committee in

the Gulf only five per cent of the school curricula served to raise public health awareness.

Dr Ashraf Hassouneh reviewed the development of school health at the international level which was devoted to combating infectious diseases and provided regular medical check-ups for students.

He stressed the need for school doctors to keep in touch with

latest developments. Psychiatric ailments were more reason for concern and much more common than organic disease at present, he added.

He called for reconsideration of existing health programmes at schools, stressing that the efficiency of the role played by school nurses is a result of understanding the educational process.



Liquor destroyed

Kuwait, which bans alcohol on religious grounds, destroyed 65,990 bottles of liquor on Tuesday, the Kuwait News Agency said.

It did not say where the liquor had been found. It quoted the head of the Alcohol and Narcotics Department, Adil Bursily, as saying more would be destroyed in coming weeks.

More divorce research needed

THE seminar on divorce problems in Kuwait organised by the Community Service and Information Centre at Kuwait University under the auspices of Sheikhah Latifah Al Fahd, wife of the Crown Prince and Premier at Kuwait Plaza hotel concluded its sessions yesterday with specific recommendations.

The seminar called for discussing divorce reasons and to work seriously for eradicating its spread in the community by entrenching the Islamic culture amongst the public.

The seminar said that the divorce process should be witnessed by two adult witnesses in

accordance with Islamic procedures. The divorce pronounced by highly agitated individuals should be deemed illegal.

The judge in such cases should take the oath of a man concerned to ensure that he is in full control of his actions, the seminar said.

Consultative bureaus are to be established at the Ministry of Justice in order to discuss the family problems prior to any judicial proceedings, the bureau should be provided with the necessary specialists, the seminar recommended.

Meanwhile, the seminar called for enlightening students on married life, this should be real-

ised through the studying curriculums.

Likewise, the seminar has called for the expansion in establishing community service centres to cover all the areas of the country in order to discuss reasons of disputes between spouses and to try to reconcile them under the supervision of specialists, the seminar said.

It added that the article No.165 concerning indemnifying of divorced women should be amended and the husband should be obliged to pay the necessary indemnity which must be enough to meet her requirements for at least two years.

'Hostile policy'

KOC sacks several Kuwaitis

KUWAIT Oil Company (KOC) is not paying any heed to the call for Kuwaitising its staff, according to the workers union of the company.

The allegations was issued by the union in a statement which added that the company has dismissed several Kuwaiti youths.

The statement added: "dismissing a number of Kuwaiti workers who are performing military service is an example of KOC's ongoing policy."

The union was responding to a statement of an official at KOC last week in which he described the previous allegations of the union related to the dismissal of workers performing military service as baseless.

The official added that the union is championing the cause of a few employees who have been found not to be loyal to the interests of the company. KOC abides by the rights of the workers, the official said.

The statement of the union refuted the explanation of the KOC official to the local dailies. The union said that it had documentary evidence to prove that a number of dismissed workers are still serving in the army and have not been discharged from military service. This proves the hostile policy of KOC towards the rights of the workers, the union statement added.

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Sunset: 6.35 pm
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Ahmad: 38°C 100°F
Faiika: 37°C 99°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 21°C 70°F
Ahmad: 25°C 77°F
Faiika: 26°C 79°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
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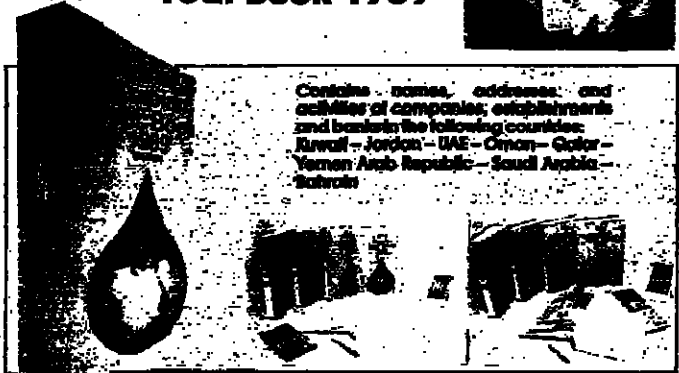
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YOU can do very little with faith, but you can do nothing without it — Samuel Butler, English satirist (1835-1902).

OPINION

Gorbachev's gift

THE Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has presented a very important gift to all Arab leaders on the eve of one of the most important and dangerous Arab summits due to take place later this month in Casablanca, Morocco.

After 30 years of strained relations and cold war, Gorbachev has normalised his country's relations with China, thus presenting a valuable gift by example to the Arab leaders.

Gorbachev has overlooked all the complications and the accumulated ideological differences between the biggest communist countries in the world, admitting that what was prevailing between the two countries was totally wrong and necessitated redress.

In essence, Gorbachev began his rapprochement with China, long before he actually visited the country yesterday. This he achieved by the Herculean reformist revolution he launched in his own country and by committing himself to the principles of this revolution.

Before the arrival of Gorbachev, the communist world had reached a stage of stagnation and had lost its ability to deal properly with any new developments. Because of this, the communist world was forced to follow the path of war and ways of instigating them in a manner designed to refute the facts of modern life and adhering to the traditional communist texts.

With his own revolution, Gorbachev succeeded in inducing in one of the largest communities in the world, a liberalised revolution akin to his own. This revolution made millions of Chinese discover the facts of the new life. Additionally, ideological, organisational and political disputes, are now events of the past.

Consequently, it has become illogical to use that pretext to continue the "struggle" against imperialism and to create regional wars in all the four corners of the globe with the aim of helping the "working class" reach power.

These slogans have been destroyed by Gorbachev's perestroika, in spite of the fact that Arab socialists and communists do not agree with him, accusing him of following the instructions of the CIA.

The gift of Gorbachev to the Arabs is indeed very valuable. The man has ended 30 years of disputes with China and normalised relations with that country. He has achieved this in spite of the legacy of Mao and Brezhnev. He took the initiative in withdrawing from Mongolia and left his ideas very effective in the communist societies. His ideas worked like antibiotics in bodies inflicted with infections, cancers and other diseases.

Gorbachev has told the Arab leaders that no problem is beyond solution, when there is a will and good intentions. He added that the main consideration should be for the people and their future and not rulers and their future.

The days of dispute in the Sino-Russian relations have now disappeared forever. This has been achieved by Gorbachev himself, who was not prevented by bogus arrogance from going personally to the Chinese leaders to sign with them the contract for a better future.

He simply admitted the mistakes and admitted the time has come to redress these errors. Ironically, while Gorbachev was in discussions with the Chinese leaders, Chinese students supporting his ideas were demonstrating outside the palace, demanding reforms, democracy and removal of the one-party authority.

This is the way the world is working at present. Undoubtedly, any politician in any part of the world, including Gorbachev himself, will laugh at the Arab communists, who claim to be backers of the working class and people struggling against imperialism. They will laugh at them when they see that they are still sticking to their old outdated ideas. They know only to condemn the ideas of the Soviet leader, accusing him of being an agent of the CIA and Washington the protector of imperialism in the whole world.

On the eve of the Arab summit, we are certain that Gorbachev's message has reached the Arab leaders. But, we are uncertain whether some of them will follow the Russian leader's example and enter the summit hall and admit their mistakes of participating in regional conflicts, aggression, interfering in the affairs of brotherly Arab countries and confiscating the political opinions of opponents.

They should admit harming others, shelling them, taking their lives and destroying their cities, and civilisation. Such black decades must now be stopped.

How many Arab leaders are now prepared to see a second Gorbachev among their brothers? Are we really asking the impossible by demanding that? We are merely asking them to follow good examples, in the manner of the leader of "socialists", "revolutionaries", "strugglers" and "fighters against imperialism" who has decided to adopt a new shape.

It is the shape of co-operation, peaceful co-existence and conviction in the new facts of the world. We are demanding to follow the example of Gorbachev which is not impossible.

Thus, we can hope for a truly historical summit in Casablanca, that will announce the ending of hostilities and begin the normalisation of relations among Arab countries fully.

Can we hope for an Arab Gorbachev who stands in Casablanca like the Gorbachev who stood in Beijing and announced he was mistaken and said let's co-operate for the future. This hope is certainly not impossible.

As people, we are still convinced that the Arab blood pumping in our arteries can never become water. We are convinced that the destruction in our countries, the backwardness in our life and the low esteem we are held in by the world community, is more than enough and must come to an end. On the eve of the Casablanca summit, we pray for the achievement of our hopes and ambitions.

Our leaders must thus accept the Gorbachev gift as a message from the new world. They are well aware that the new world will take all of us, and no one will dare to keep out. If so, it will be at the cost of being ousted from power.

Thanks to the Great Soviet Leader!!

Ahmed Al Jarallah

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1521 — Edward Stafford, claimant to English throne, is executed for treason.
- 1536 — Archbishop Cranmer declares marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn is invalid.
- 1632 — Gustavus II enters Munich and elector John George of Saxony seizes Prague without firing a shot.
- 1756 — Britain declares war on France.
- 1782 — Treaty of Salbai ends war between British and Marathas of India.
- 1803 — British Orders-in-Council places first embargo on all French and Dutch ships in British ports.
- 1809 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte issues imperial decree annexing papal states.
- 1885 — Germany annexes northern New Guinea and the Bismarck archipelago.
- 1940 — Nazi Germany occupies Brussels, Belgium, in World War II.
- 1946 — Mitr Antonescu, wartime premier of Romania, is sentenced to death.
- 1957 — Egypt bars Israeli merchant ships from Suez Canal.
- 1962 — US officials say American troops that landed in Thailand will play defensive role and not invade communist-threatened Laos.
- 1976 — Libya takes action to try to mediate between Christians and Muslims battling in Lebanon.
- 1988 — Fighting rages in Lebanon despite peace efforts by Syria and Iran.

Menem leads Peronists back into Casa Rosada

Call for a 'humanised capitalism'

FLAMBOYANT Argentine Governor Carlos Menem looks set to adopt the mantle of Peronist founder Juan Peron after leading the party to a resounding victory in Sunday's general elections.

A 58-year-old lawyer with a passion for fast cars and beautiful women, Menem will succeed President Raul Alfonsín on December 10.

In a victory speech to a crowd in his native city of La Rioja, 1,100 km (700 miles) northwest of Buenos Aires, Menem quoted his two favourite authorities, Peron and the Bible, to set out one of the priorities of his future administration.

"Peron used to say that to create jobs is to govern and we will make that premise a reality, the jobs that will make the Biblical phrase come true — You will earn your bread with the sweat of your brow," he said.

"We will finish with this Argentina where those who do nothing live well and those who work every day of the year live badly."

Menem, whose parents were Syrian-born, will be Argentina's first president not of Spanish or Italian stock. His wife, Zulema Yoma, is a Muslim but he is a devout Roman Catholic.

Menem will take the Peronists back into the Casa Rosada, the pink government house from which Peron addressed mass rallies, 13 years after their last government was thrown out by a military coup.

He insists Peronism is not a political party but a multi-class movement embracing workers, businessmen, intellectuals, students and nationalist military personnel.

Alberto Kohan, one of his campaign managers, said: "Menem is the leader Peronism lost 15 years ago" (when Peron died).

Menem has governed La Rioja since Argentina returned to democracy in 1983 after eight years of military rule.

During the campaign he invoked God at least 10 times per speech, in a manner which political analysts likened to that of television evangelists who in recent years have gained ground in Latin America.

He favours the orthodox Peronist doctrine espoused by Argentina's powerful trade unions, a form of nationalism which calls for a "humanised capitalism."

His economic programme was packaged for the campaign in a vague slogan, "The productive revolution," which proposes to encourage output and consumption by raising wages and offering easy credit terms to businesses.

Menem has said he plans to seek a five-year grace period from foreign creditors on Argentina's 60-billion-dollar debt.

To head off military unrest, he wants to re-equip the restless armed forces and to produce arms for export.

In 1987 Menem was re-elected La Rioja's governor until 1991. He had held the post from 1973 to 1976 during the last Peronist government. He spent five years under arrest, without being charged, during the 1976-1983 military regime.

Under Menem's administration dozens of industries took advantage of tax breaks to open operations in La Rioja. His opponents say the province is in an economic mess because of excessive public spending.

He and his wife led separate lives for some time because of his passion for motor rallying and high life in show business circles. They were reunited shortly before he won the Peronist presidential nomination.

"I'm a seducer, not a womaniser," Menem said in a recent interview when asked about his rakish ways. "I can't say I am a saint because I have no halo. Let's say I'm an ordinary man."

Economic policy hazy

By Daniel Drosdoff

PRESIDENT-ELECT Carlos Menem faces a dilemma after he is sworn in on December 10 — how to make good his generous election promises with a bankrupt economy.

Argentina's 1989 financial collapse, consisting of a rapidly deteriorating currency, hyper-inflation, recession, scarcities of consumer goods and an empty national treasury, gave ample ammunition to Menem and his Peronist party to attack the administration of Raul Alfonsín.

Like most politicians, he won his election victory by offering promises — economic revival, better income distribution and more investment.

Menem, 56, has an amiable personality and shrewd election campaign instincts, but his economic programme is unpredictable.

Whereas he once said he would not send overseas 'one dollar' for five years to pay interest on Argentina's \$60 billion foreign debt, the third largest in the world, now he says he and creditors will achieve "an

agreed upon moratorium."

Once he promised Argentines a "salariozo," meaning "super pay raise."

Later he modified that promise, saying that raises would be staggered over a period of years.

He has promised to grant housewives a pension, a move certain to fuel inflation.

Leaders of the gastronomic union believe it is a foregone conclusion that Menem and the Peronists will grant waiters a pay raise through a mandatory tip on restaurant bills.

That is a concession Menem could certainly achieve. It is also something sure to reduce the number of foreign tourists visiting Argentina.

The big task for Menem will be to somehow find the necessary money to finance what he calls a "produce shock." An economic policy he has not yet defined but admitted will necessarily lead to increased spending.

A Western economic analyst says Argentina's economy is in such bad shape — the country stopped



Carlos Menem: president-elect in Argentina

paying both interest and principle on its foreign debt more than a year ago — that "things will get worse before they get better."

Virtually all economic experts and Menem himself agree that a fundamental weakness in the Argentine economy is the oversized state bureaucracy and inefficiency and featherbedding in the state enterprises, including oil, electricity and railroads.

Menem has promised to restore efficiency in the state companies by "privatising everything that can be privatised." He will face stiff opposition from labour union leaders, the backbone of the Peronist

party, who are committed to maintaining job stability.

The always ambitious and scheming military establishments is also a problem for Menem, as it was for Alfonsín, who put down three Army rebellions.

Menem has offered to hold a plebiscite on ending trials for human rights crimes by military officers.

But Menem has said that he himself would vote against ending the trials, something that would offend the Army.

Memories of war fade in Iraq

Enhancing visions of peace

By Marian Houk

IRAQ is moving rapidly to put the war with Iran behind it, despite having no peace agreement eight months after UN sponsored ceasefire went into effect.

Even during the war, areas in Baghdad hit by Iranian missiles were repaired or rebuilt within days. The only signs of the bitter conflict in the capital today are a large, saucer-shaped monument dedicated to the "Unknown Iraqi Soldier" (but it doesn't say from which war), and the renaming of the former Grand Mosque as the Mosque of Martyrs.

"During the war, our culture and information was designed to prepare the individual to fight for his country," Iraqi Information Minister Latif Jassem told journalists two weeks ago. "Now our policies are policies of peace, and we are enhancing our visions of peace."

Peace talks are stalled, but "Iraq cannot tolerate a situation of 'no war, no peace' whereby everything stops," said Nizar Hamdoun, Iraq's deputy foreign minister, in a recent interview.

"We are better off by moving forward — while at the same time keeping up our defensive power,

which is not easy in terms of human or material resources," Hamdoun said.

All available men were drafted during the war, and stringent controls still apply to Iraqi citizens who want to leave the country. But officials report that the Army is now being gradually demobilised. Those who served the longest are being discharged first.

President Saddam Hussein's grip on power now appears confident and secure. He presided over elections on April 1 for the 250-member National Assembly, which will consider establishment of a true multi-party system and a permanent Constitution.

There were 900 candidates in the elections. Of the winners, 220 were first-time officeholders. Only 160 are members of the ruling Baath Party; the rest belong to other officially sanctioned parties or to no party. The newly elected Assembly was convened last month.

The government is promising to ease some internal restrictions. Jassem heads a government committee studying ways to expand press freedom. Right now,

foreign newspapers, and even tourist maps of the country are not available.

Jassem indicated that foreign publications will be admitted, except those objectionable on national, security, or religious grounds.

A major effort is under way to rebuild the port of Basra, Iraq's second largest city. Basra, at the head of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, took the brunt of Iranian shelling during the war.

Clean-up operations started on Dec. 20. A four-month reconstruction campaign began in mid-February. The government has said that funds for the reconstruction are "unlimited" and that thousands of workers have been dispatched to complete the task. An American embassy official, however, estimates that the number of workers is at least one million.

This includes a large number of Sudanese and Egyptians who can come to Iraq without visas to be hired for the work. Truckloads could be seen on the streets of Basra, even though some lower-ranking Iraqi officials deny that any foreign workers are involved.

Hamdoun confirmed reports that Saudi Arabia has donated building materials for the effort. Kuwait has promised several million dollars. Hamdoun added that a "personal world-wide donation campaign" was under way in Arab and Iraqi communities to rebuild Basra.

The Saudi and Kuwaiti contributions, Hamdoun reported, were in addition to "tens of billions" of dollars given primarily by those two countries during the war.

Work has begun on freeing some of the ships that have been stuck in the Shatt Al Arab since the beginning of the war — but only in the upper areas of the waterway where both banks are Iraqi territory.

A Panamanian-registered ship, the Wintaria, will be the first ship to be refloated near the Corniche of Basra. Iraqi officials say that it will be towed to a dock, and it will be up to the owners to dispose of the ship.

The Basra oil refinery, damaged early in the war, reopened at half capacity in February.

The Christian Science Monitor.

Racial issue in New Zealand

Maori politician tipped to be prime minister

By Simon Louison

MOUNTING racial tension in New Zealand has thrust Maori politician Winston Peters into the front line, with many betting he could eventually become prime minister.

Race is looming as an issue in next year's general election and Peters has ironically been able to sue the issue to win support from conservative whites.

Peters, an elegant lawyer with a wide smile, is a member of parliament for the conservative National Party.

"I disagree with the sickly white liberalism that mirrors its face in the government's policy," he said in an interview. "I disagree with their paternalism."

"I was born into a large family that was poor and I've believed since the day I've lived that you have to strive for achievement," he said.

Equal

"The wish to be equal by proving you're equal, is what Maoridom has to strive for. There is no other way."

Earlier this month he stunned political observers by topping an opinion poll as "preferred prime minister," well ahead of present prime minister David Lange and even his own party leader, Jim Bolger.

New Zealanders once prided themselves on harmonious relations between the country's majority European descendants and the Maoris, Polynesians who first arrived in the country 1,300 years ago, but tension has grown in recent years.

Rising unemployment has hit the Maori community, about 10 per cent of New Zealand's three million-strong population, disproportionately hard.

The Labour government's efforts to redress Maori grievances dating from the past century have provoked resentment among some whites. A tribunal is currently judging Maori claims for land they say was illegally taken by settlers. Maori tribes are claiming the country's coastline, 70 per cent of the land, and half the nation's fishing rights.

Peters, a half-Scott, half-Maori who represents a wealthy northern constituency, has won wide popularity with calls for economic expansion while the government preaches belt-tightening.

He denied he is "prairie populist" but accepts the tag. "If by populist people mean articulating issues of real concern to ordinary New Zealanders, then maybe that's a fair statement."

Peters is coy about his ambitions, but others have more to say. "On our side he is potentially the next leader of the party and that means the next prime minister other than Bolger," said "former national prime minister Sir Robert Muldoon.

Peter expects the next election, in October 1990, to be fought on issues of the economy, foreign ownership and race.

Policies

He claims labour policies of accommodating Maori activists' demands and allowing devolution are bad for both Maoridom and the rest of the country.

"You've got heightened European anxieties, you've got heightened Maori expectations with no hope of fulfilment — that's a recipe for racial conflict."

The 43-year-old Peters, who paid for law school by working part-time, and sees scholarships reserved for Maoris as demeaning, believes the answer to the Maori question lies in education.

Maoris and Polynesian immigrants from Pacific islands, whose numbers are expected to grow to almost 20 per cent of the population by the year 2015, often perform poorly at school.

"If you look at the 1986 Maori school exam results, put them up against the population demograph to the year 2010, 2020, we're going to rendezvous with the Third World unless we address the issue of education on performance."

"I'm out to dispose of that soft, convenient argument that many Maori radicals put up that failure is the result of the system not being their's" he said.

Peters also wins support for attacks on Labour's free-market policies but they have brought him into conflict with national colleagues.

Political scientist Nigel Roberts said that Peters's best chance of topping Bolger, a devout Roman Catholic, lay with a National defeat in the next election.

"Were National to lose, Bolger would hardly survive long enough to count the beads on his rosary."

هنا من الفصل

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Dollar down, gold mixed

LONDON, May 16, (AP): The US dollar fell in moderate European trading today. Gold prices were mixed.

Foreign currency dealers said the drop on the heels of yesterday's surge was the result of profit-taking and consolidation. European markets, except Britain's and Italy's, were closed yesterday for the Pentecost holiday.

Traders said they expect positive dollar-buying sentiment to push the dollar higher unless there is some decisive action taken by central banks.

In Tokyo, where trading ends as Europe's business day begins, the dollar closed up 0.20 yen at 137.00 yen, despite reported intervention by the Bank of Japan. The dollar has gained 2.56 yen over the last four trading days.

Stock exchange moves to curb speculation

Bourse tries to get a great number of institutions

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

THE Kuwait Stock Exchange, which is modelling itself on the world's reputable stock markets, is moving to curb speculation in favour of trading that relies more heavily on the performance of listed companies, according to its general manager Hisham Al Otaibi.

To achieve this the stock exchange is trying to get a greater number of institutions, rather than individuals, involved in share trading — a plan which will receive a substantial boost when mutual funds are introduced in about two months. Memories of the Souk Al Manakh crash are still fresh but some Kuwaitis hanker for the days when they made vast sums in wild speculation.

Al Otaibi insists that uncontrolled speculation almost ruined the economy. "I never want pre-Manakh days to return again," he stressed.

The new initiatives, which also include

the listing of foreign firms, opening of the parallel bourse and abolition of trading limits are an essential part of structural changes to develop systems and mechanisms that will stress long-lasting solutions rather than an ad hoc approach. The exchange seeks to initiate developments within well-defined regulations rather than reach to the market situation, Al Otaibi said.

This is why once the bourse decided to open its door to foreign firms it scrupulously examined applications from firms which seek to be listed. "The rules we set for the three firms that have applied so far will be valid for all the rest that may follow."

In the case of foreign firms we are up against financial hurdles we don't have in Kuwait, such as taxes," explained Al Otaibi.

Other aspects under examination are disclosure, the currencies in which foreign firms will trade, and regulation in

countries where the firms are registered.

Among the firms that applied for a listing are the London-based United Bank of Kuwait Ltd jointly owned by 13 Kuwaiti finance institutions and a Belgian/Canadian real estate and investment company with a minority Kuwaiti stake.

Al Otaibi declined to identify the third firm. The three applications will be presented to the stock exchange board in two months for approval.

Contrary to criticism from market analysts who usually focus on share values, Al Otaibi, comparing the first quarters of this and the last year, noted an increase of 42 per cent of trading volume and a rise in the total value of shares traded of 52%. Mutual funds, also known as unit trusts, are expected to create even greater demand in shares.

The funds, to be set up by real estate companies, banks and investment companies, will enable small investors,

Kuwaiti and expatriates, to buy units, (a basket of stocks) which will be traded on the official stock exchange. The funds, which will quote real estate unit prices monthly and financial unit prices weekly, will also be willing to buy back the units at a price slightly lower than quoted at the stock exchange.

As the fund managers are expected to specialise in certain shares, they will improve professionalism thereby limiting speculation and bring stability to share trading, Al Otaibi said.

"We hope they will be something of market maker," he added.

The market will be further bolstered when government agencies, which stopped selling their shares last year, divest themselves of their stakes in semi-public companies.

The new initiative coupled with recent efforts to examine the problems facing various economic sectors are also seen as part of a larger programme to clear the

way for plans to make Kuwait a major financial centre.

Arguing in favour of the financial centre scheme Al Otaibi said Kuwait has the required infrastructure but must solve the problems that plague certain areas of activity. "We have longstanding banking experience, well-developed investment companies, a regularised stock exchange and no restrictions on money transfers," he said.

Declining comment on recent reports that the government will swiftly deal with the bad debt problem from the Suq Al Manakh crisis, he acknowledged that the issue is a major obstacle.

The five Chamber of Commerce committees charged with the task of looking into economic problems have completed their recommendations and will soon present them to the government.

Al Otaibi who sits on one of the committees declined to reveal the contents of the proposals.

Nakasone agrees to testify on scandal

TOKYO, May 16, (Reuters): Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said today he was willing to testify in parliament on his role in Japan's worst postwar political scandal.

The announcement could lead to the end of an opposition party boycott which has stalled most parliamentary business since early March.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, acting secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), quoted Nakasone as telling him:

"For the sake of normalising parliamentary business, I am determined to positively cope with (the question of) testifying in parliament."

Hashimoto told reporters Nakasone was likely to appear during the current session which ends late this month.

The Recruit affair, involving massive payments from the Recruit publishing and telecommunications group to politicians and others, last month forced Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to announce his impending resignation.

See Japan's LDP
Page 12

Smoking, drinking do not affect worker absenteeism rates

Physical activity a factor

WASHINGTON, May 16, (AP): Smoking and drinking do not affect worker absenteeism rates but physical fitness does, with out-of-shape workers likely to miss more days of work, according to a study released today.

"More physically fit individuals experience fewer work absenteeism, and employer initiatives that increase the level of physical activity among the work force may indeed have a positive effect on employee absenteeism," said the report from the National Chamber Foundation.

While the foundation, the research arm of the US Chamber of Commerce, found attendance differences based on individual characteristics such as income, education and physical condition, it said group absenteeism projections based solely on race or gender are groundless as well as discriminatory.

"The variance of absenteeism patterns among individuals is so great as to make characteristics based on group behaviour of no value to the employer," the study said.

The foundation based its results on 33,000 responses to surveys conducted in 1983 and 1985 by the US government's National Centre for Health Statistics. All of the respondents included in the study were 18 years of age or older and had jobs.

The study was released a week after the Centre for Health Statistics, using some of the same

data, released a study of its own saying sickness keeps women away from work about one day more than men. The authors gave no reason for that finding, but a 1985 Labour Department study said women have higher rates of absenteeism in their childbearing years.

Findings
The foundation did not dispute those findings, saying when gender alone was the variable in determining absenteeism that women were more likely to miss work than men.

In other single-variable comparisons the study found the probability of work loss:

■ Dropped with increases in age.

■ Dropped as education levels rose.

■ Was higher among married workers than those who were single.

■ Was lower among non-whites than whites.

■ Was lower as family income increased.

■ Was lower among those who reported high levels of physical activity.

Carlos E. Bonilla, the foundation's economic analyst who directed the study, said those variables were chosen because the information is readily available to employers when considering applicants for jobs. The researchers then also factored in alcohol and tobacco use to determine if they affected absenteeism.

But of the three lifestyle characteristics examined by the

study — smoking, drinking and physical activity — only physical activity was found to have a statistically significant impact on work attendance.

Those probability rates were determined based on one characteristic alone — age or gender for example — but when all of the traits are combined no clear-cut trends about population groups develop, the study said.

"In reality, groups defy objective comparison," Bonilla said.

"The conventional wisdom holds that many employee characteristics, most notably gender, serve as predictors of an employee's potential for absenteeism," the study said. "What may be true for single-trait groups has no bearing on the behaviour of individuals."

The chamber group, which provides consulting for business, said any employers who took an applicant's race, gender or age into account when trying to determine likely work attendance "are likely to be violating US anti-discrimination laws but also would be using a faulty theory that 'may very well deprive the employer of well qualified employees'."

The researchers said a far better gauge of potential absenteeism is an individual's past work record. But it said many employers are reluctant to give detailed references about former workers because they fear being sued even if the information is accurate.

Libya wants US oil firms to resume operations

KUWAIT, May 16, (AP): Libya is negotiating with American oil companies to return after the US government lifted a three-year ban on working there. Libya's oil minister was quoted as saying today.

"We are still negotiating with US companies about the resumption of their operations in the Jamahiriya (Libya). We need profound discussion," Fawzi Shakhshouki told a local daily in an interview.

Before leaving office, former President Ronald Reagan authorised American oil companies to resume doing business in Libya after a three-year hiatus.

Hundreds of individual Americans continued working in Libya despite the government

ban.

The ban had been imposed as part of a series of sanctions against Libya by the Reagan administration because of charges that Libyan leader Col Moammar Khaddafi financed terrorism.

Shakhshouki was in Kuwait to attend the semi-annual conference of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, when it was decided to readmit Egypt into the pan-Arab body despite its peace treaty with Israel.

The Libyan minister said his country would sign in the coming two months its first contracts with international companies for renewed oil exploration.

"We are negotiating with several companies on exploration for oil, which we consider an important aspect for augmenting oil reserves," he said. He did not identify the companies.

Shakhshouki disclosed that his country was planning to establish investments in downstream operations in foreign countries to ensure marketing outlets for the Libyan crude.

He called on member states of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to stick to their output quotas so as "to attain the previous reference price of \$28 a barrel." That was the target price in the early 1980s.

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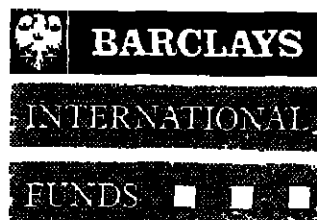
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OAPEC oil revenues drop again

KUWAIT, May 16, (AP): Oil revenues of the main eleven Arab oil producing countries, members of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, continued the downward of recent years and were estimated at a total of \$60 billion in 1988, said an OAPEC annual report released today.

The report, issued by the Kuwait-based organisation, attributed the decline to the instability of oil prices on the world markets, an only moderate increase in world oil demand and the depreciating value of the dollar.

It said that the 1988 figure is 40 per cent lower than revenues attained in 1984 and 5 per cent lower than that of 1987.

The report gave no reason for choosing to compare with 1984, but in the preceding year the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries had been forced to slash its oil prices by \$5 a barrel to bring them down from \$34 to 29 a barrel.

Sheikh Ali meets Citibank chief

NEW YORK, May 16, (KUNA): Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah was meeting today with Citibank chairman John Reed and other top bank officials to discuss international financial matters related to the price of oil, informed sources told KUNA.

The meeting at Citibank, America's largest financial institution, was not announced publicly, and neither Kuwaiti nor Citibank officials would provide details on the purpose of the talks.

Earlier in the day, the minister addressed a breakfast meeting at the prestigious Council on Foreign Relations, the gathering was confidential.

Gloom returns to market Equities continue to outperform bonds

THE performance of the major financial markets was rather unsteady in the first three months of this year, with equities continuing to outperform bonds (except the UK), primarily influenced by the deteriorating worldwide inflation outlook combined with the gyrations of the dollar on the foreign exchanges, according to KLIIC Financial Markets Review.

The US market showed some improvement as far as stocks and the currency were concerned through bonds suffered a further downturn.

The UK gilts and equities staged a remarkable rally, but its currency retreated moderately to lose some ground. The West German, Japanese and Dutch stock markets were quite impressive with the exception of bonds and the currency.

Sentiment on the US stock market was mildly bullish with the DJIA surpassing the 2300 level for the first time, registering a 5.8 per cent gain compared with the 2.6 per cent increase in the previous quarter, despite a 1/2 per cent hike in the discount rate to 7 per cent — the highest point since March 1986.

Losses

The surge was propelled by renewed hopes for the US trade balance improvement in view of sharp narrowing in January trade deficit to \$9.49 billion from revised \$10.99 billion in December, continued buoyancy in takeover/restructuring activity that focused particularly on communications and airlines sectors.

President George Bush's calls for a lower capital gains tax, and generally positive corporate results.

However, the treasury market extended its losses overlooking signs of an apparent cooling off in the economy, highlighted by a fall in March National Association

tion of Purchasing Managers' index to 50.4 per cent — lowest level in 32 months — from 57.3 per cent in December.

The decelerating trend was exacerbated by the intensifying inflationary pressures from both, the consumer and the producer levels (measured by the year-on-year rise to +5.1 per cent and +5.4 per cent in February respectively from +4.7 per cent and 4.0 per cent in December) coupled with soaring crude oil prices that exceeded the \$20 per barrel mark for the first time since October 1987 amid optimism over OPEC production restraints and disappointment over the Bush administration's \$1.16 trillion fiscal budget 1990 proposal which envisaged a \$91.1 billion shortfall (faded hopes for a realistic deficit reduction strategy).

The UK stock market picked up steam attaining a post-crash high of 1761.10 on 14.3.1989 measured by FT10 and gaining 17.4 per cent compared with a 1.4 per cent decline in the last quarter of 1988, in spite of a series of rights issues including from LASMO to raise £158 million.

On the other hand, the bond market encountered further weakness in the face of reduced 1989 public borrowing requirements to DM 43 billion from DM 53 billion last year.

Investors' enthusiasm was tempered by the softer tone of the D-mark on the currency markets undermined in part by the deteriorating capital account deficit that widened to DM6.40 billion in January from DM 1.19 billion a year ago, pessimistic outlook for lower inflation heightened by a jump in the February wholesale prices to annualised +5.4 per cent resulting from higher consumer taxes — the highest level since mid-

(Continued on Page 12)

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST	OPEN
ABBEY LIFE	283.0	
ADT LTD	174.0	
ALD LYONS	453.0	
AMSTRAD	109.0	
ARSTL GP	189.0	
ASDA GP	168.0	
BAA	342.0	
BTR	589.0	
BAT INDS	547.0	
BARCLAYS	474.0	
BASS	949.0	
BEAZER	185.5	
BEECHAM	615.0	
BELSFORD	153.0	
BICO PLC	590.0	
BLUE ARW	99.2	
BLUE CIRC	571.0	
BQC GP	494.0	
BOOTS CO	288.4	
BRP INDS	238.0	
BR CONW	208.0	
BR AIRWAY	207.0	
BR AEROSP	619.0	
BR GAS LG	170.0	
BR RANG	361.4	
B.P.	281.0	
B.P.F.	280.0	
BR TEEEL	87.4	
BR TELCOM	273.0	
BURMAN OL	590.0	
BURTON	216.0	
CABLEAIR	535.0	
CADBURYS	349.0	
CALOR GRP	400.0	
CRITN CO	852.0	
COATS VIV	155.0	
COOKSONS	325.0	
COURTAULD	325.0	
DALGETY	349.0	
DIXONS	137.0	
ENG CHINA	495.0	
ENTER OIL	559.0	
FKI BACK	165.0	
FERRANTI	105.0	
FISONS	306.0	
GALWAY	193.0	
GEN ACCIO	955.0	
GEN ELEC	383.0	
GLAXO	383.0	
GRANADA	349.0	
GLOBE	175.0	
GLYNED	310.0	
GUARD RYL	215.0	
GUKIL	373.0	
GUINNESS	480.0	
HAMPSH A	797.0	
HANSON	199.5	
HARRISON C	175.0	
HUKER SID	709.0	
HILLSDOWN	276.0	
IMI	238.0	

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	LAST	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	921.0	
600 GROUP	129.0	
A.AMER TS	458.0	
A.B.ELECT	398.0	
A.S.V.HLD	278.0	
AAB KENT	114.0	
AAH HLD	400.0	
AARONSON	109.0	
ADDISON	168.0	
ADVEST	168.0	
ALEX WIKI	195.0	
ALEXON	399.0	
ALLD COLL	143.0	
ALLD IR B	320.0	
ALLD LON	148.0	
ALLIANCE	042.0	
AMER DAY	461.0	
AMER TST	145.6	
AMERSHAM	488.0	
AMT HLTHC	366.0	
ANGLIA SC	333.0	
ANGLIA TV	287.0	
APL PLC	151.0	
ASPHY.LA	103.0	
AUS REE A	242.0	
AUST REED	384.0	
AUTO SECS	286.0	
AVISCOR	145.0	
AVIS EUR	409.0	
AVON RUBB	613.0	
B.VENHILL	248.0	
BAILL JAC	537.0	
BAILL SHI	98.0	
BAIRD (W)	250.0	
BANK IRE	298.0	
BANKER IT	93.4	
BARDON GP	176.0	
BARRY DEV	189.0	
BAYNES C	36.0	
BBA GROUP	206.0	
BEAR BRND	12.0	
BEATTIE J	155.0	
BEHAVEN	51.4	
BELLWAY	249.0	
BENMOSE	239.0	
BENLOX HD	69.0	
BENKLEY	233.0	
BHH GROUP	133.4	
BK OF SCD	96.0	
BLK LE 2	11.2	
BUNNETT + F	46.0	
BOASE MAS	344.0	
BODDINGTON	170.0	
BOOTH SHP	579.0	
BOYD NEW	475.0	
BORTHWICK	41.0	
BR ARROW	114.0	
BR ASSETS	83.4	
BR DREGI	171.0	

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	LAST	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	921.0	
600 GROUP	129.0	
A.AMER TS	458.0	
A.B.ELECT	398.0	
A.S.V.HLD	278.0	
AAB KENT	114.0	
AAH HLD	400.0	
AARONSON	109.0	
ADDISON	168.0	
ADVEST	168.0	
ALEX WIKI	195.0	
ALEXON	399.0	
ALLD COLL	143.0	
ALLD IR B	320.0	
ALLD LON	148.0	
ALLIANCE	042.0	
AMER DAY	461.0	
AMER TST	145.6	
AMERSHAM	488.0	
AMT HLTHC	366.0	
ANGLIA SC	333.0	
ANGLIA TV	287.0	
APL PLC	151.0	
ASPHY.LA	103.0	
AUS REE A	242.0	
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AUTO SECS	286.0	
AVISCOR	145.0	
AVIS EUR	409.0	
AVON RUBB	613.0	
B.VENHILL	248.0	
BAILL JAC	537.0	
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BAIRD (W)	250.0	
BANK IRE	298.0	
BANKER IT	93.4	
BARDON GP	176.0	
BARRY DEV	189.0	
BAYNES C	36.0	
BBA GROUP	206.0	
BEAR BRND	12.0	
BEATTIE J	155.0	
BEHAVEN	51.4	
BELLWAY	249.0	
BENMOSE	239.0	
BENLOX HD	69.0	
BENKLEY	233.0	
BHH GROUP	133.4	
BK OF SCD	96.0	
BLK LE 2	11.2	
BUNNETT + F	46.0	
BOASE MAS	344.0	
BODDINGTON	170.0	
BOOTH SHP	579.0	
BOYD NEW	475.0	
BORTHWICK	41.0	
BR ARROW	114.0	
BR ASSETS	83.4	
BR DREGI	171.0	

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	LAST	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	921.0	
600 GROUP	129.0	
A.AMER TS	458.0	
A.B.ELECT	398.0	
A.S.V.HLD	278.0	
AAB KENT	114.0	
AAH HLD	400.0	
AARONSON	109.0	
ADDISON	168.0	
ADVEST	168.0	
ALEX WIKI	195.0	
ALEXON	399.0	
ALLD COLL	143.0	
ALLD IR B	320.0	
ALLD LON	148.0	
ALLIANCE	042.0	
AMER DAY	461.0	
AMER TST	145.6	
AMERSHAM	488.0	
AMT HLTHC	366.0	
ANGLIA SC	333.0	
ANGLIA TV	287.0	
APL PLC	151.0	
ASPHY.LA	103.0	
AUS REE A	242.0	
AUST REED	384.0	
AUTO SECS	286.0	
AVISCOR	145.0	
AVIS EUR	409.0	
AVON RUBB	613.0	
B.VENHILL	248.0	
BAILL JAC	537.0	
BAILL SHI	98.0	
BAIRD (W)	250.0	
BANK IRE	298.0	
BANKER IT	93.4	
BARDON GP	176.0	
BARRY DEV	189.0	
BAYNES C	36.0	
BBA GROUP	206.0	
BEAR BRND	12.0	
BEATTIE J	155.0	
BEHAVEN	51.4	
BELLWAY	249.0	
BENMOSE	239.0	
BENLOX HD	69.0	
BENKLEY	233.0	
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BARDON GP	176.0	
BARRY DEV	189.0	
BAYNES C	36.0	
BBA GROUP	206.0	
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BEHAVEN	51.4	
BELLWAY	249.0	
BENMOSE	239.0	
BENLOX HD	69.0	
BENKLEY	233.0	
BHH GROUP	133.4	
BK OF SCD	96.0	
BLK LE 2	11.2	
BUNNETT + F	46.0	
BOASE MAS	344.0	
BODDINGTON	170.0	
BOOTH SHP	579.0	
BOYD NEW	475.0	
BORTHWICK	41.0	
BR ARROW	114.0	
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BR DREGI	171.0	

LONDON
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ALEXON	399.0	
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ANGLIA TV	287.0	
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AUST REED	384.0	
AUTO SECS	286.0	
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BAIRD (W)	250.0	
BANK IRE	298.0	
BANKER IT	93.4	
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BBA GROUP	206.0	
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BENLOX HD	69.0	
BENKLEY	233.0	
BHH GROUP	133.4	
BK OF SCD	96.0	
BLK LE 2	11.2	
BUNNETT + F	46.0	
BOASE MAS	344.0	
BODDINGTON	170.0	
BOOTH SHP	579.0	
BOYD NEW	475.0	
BORTHWICK	41.0	
BR ARROW	100.0	
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Move to boost trade

Taiwan urges closer ties in Pacific basin

TAIPEI, Taiwan, May 16, (AP): Economic Minister Chen Li-An urged members of the Pacific basin economic council today to promote freer trade and closer co-operation to counter protectionist moves by Western nations.

"It has become evident that international competition will be transformed from rival nations to rival regional blocs," Li told 500 delegates at the opening session of a three-day meeting.

Li said the council's 14 members must make a concerted effort toward economic co-operation to counter the effects of protectionist moves.

He also said Taiwan is determined to negotiate bilateral investment and tax agreements with countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific rim. He did not elaborate.

China has tried to pressure other countries not to sign bilateral agreements with Taiwan. The nationalist government in Taiwan lost a civil war to the Chinese communists on the mainland and fled to Taiwan in 1949. China regards Taiwan as a renegade province.

The council was founded in 1967 by business leaders from Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the United States. It was later expanded to include representatives from Chile, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan.

Its meeting is to take up issues in trade, finance, agriculture and tourism.

Earlier today, President Lee Teng-hui urged council members to make the next century "the age of the Pacific" and to "infuse the economics of the Pacific basin with even greater vitality."

The Soviet Union is represented at the conference for the first time by two delegates, Yuri Akhremenko and Vladimir Ivanov, who are attending as observers.

They have told reporters the Soviet Union hopes to become a member of the council. They said their attendance was linked to Moscow's plans to promote economic co-operation with nations in the region.

Millionaire President

WASHINGTON, May 16, (Reuters): President George Bush said officially yesterday what most people have believed for a long time — he's a millionaire.

In his annual financial disclosure statement, Bush said his blind trust was valued at \$998,000 on December 31, 1988, and he listed other assets of nearly \$97,000. Bush reported \$156,000 in income from the trust in 1988.

The disclosure statement, required by law, did not include his vacation home in Kennebunkport, Maine, or an unimproved lot in Houston.

The statement provided more details than required by current law, but ethics legislation sent to Congress by Bush earlier this year said financial statements should be more specific. The White House said the President voluntarily provided extra information to set a good example.

Bush could have reported the value of his trust as "over \$250,000". His ethics bill proposes the disclosure of the actual value of financial assets, rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

The report also showed that the President and his wife, Barbara, received \$21,009 worth of gifts valued at \$100 or more. They included a \$7,000 gold watch presented to Mrs Bush by "The ladies of the Senate Red Cross Chapter" in recognition of her service as president of the group from 1981 to 1988 while her husband was vice-president.

The Japanese stock market extended its winning streak surpassing the 32,000 barrier for the first time on the NDI, though expectations of possible margin trading restrictions and mounting uncertainties linked to the painful unfolding of stock scandal limited further advances.

Inspiring the upward trend were the remarkable performance of the domestic economy particularly the continued build-up of the trade surplus that widened to \$7.219 billion in February for the sixth consecutive month from \$5.240 billion a year ago, an impending change in tax laws that would curb the number of stock transactions allowed for individual investors per year, the Wall Street's buoyancy, and the continued high level of domestic liquidity.

However, the rally on the bond market faltered, despite tight demand/supply situation.

Gloom returned to the market, reflecting the retreating

Mexico unveils new foreign investment rules

MEXICO CITY, May 16, (AP): Mexico announced a sweeping liberalisation of its rules on foreign investment yesterday in hopes of attracting badly needed capital to its debt-crippled economy.

The new rules will open areas previously closed to outsiders and raise the amount of foreign ownership permitted in others. In some key areas, such as tourism, Mexico will for the first time allow 100 per cent foreign ownership.

Under Mexico's 1973 foreign investment law, foreign ownership has been limited to 49 per cent in most industries.

The announcement came as negotiations on restructuring the \$107.4-billion

foreign debt were to resume in New York. Mexico's pledge to modernise its protectionist economy is a crucial feature of the debt talks.

"No country can modernise without attracting fresh investment," Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra Puche told a news conference. "The tendency in the world is moving toward interdependence."

The new regulations, which take effect immediately, open up previously closed areas such as telecommunications, auto parts, fishing and secondary petrochemicals to 49 per cent foreign ownership.

In tourism, a critical item on President

Carlos Salinas de Gortari's economic development agenda, the 49 per cent limit is being abolished. Outsiders will now be allowed 100 per cent ownership.

The new rules will double to 60 years foreign leases on oceanfront property, Serra Puche said. Foreign ownership of coastal real estate is prohibited by the Mexican constitution.

Serra Puche declared it "historic" that investors will now be able to remit 100 per cent of profits.

Many areas deemed strategic, such as banking, petroleum, mineral exploration,

electrical generation and broadcasting, will remain off-limits to foreigners, Puche said.

Mexicans are sensitive to even the suggestion of foreign ownership in the nation's principal industries, such as petroleum. Primary petrochemical production will remain off-limits, while secondary production of by-products such as polyester and nylon will open to foreign participation.

Serra Puche said the liberalisation is aimed at generating employment and modernising the Mexican economy. He also said the government plans to simplify paperwork for investors.

The new rules will consolidate regulations pertaining to the border Maquiladora industry, Serra Puche said, but not change them.

Under the Maquiladora programme, foreign-made parts are imported duty-free to Mexico for final assembly. When the finished product is exported to the United States for sale, the United States taxes only the labour or the value added in Mexico.

Serra Puche said the new regulations will steer foreign investment away from the overcrowded, polluted industrial areas of Mexico City, Monterrey and Guadalajara.

G-7 officials open talks

Bankers meet to flesh out debt plan

NEW YORK, May 16, (Reuters): Deputy finance ministers from the Group of Seven nations opened talks with top bankers yesterday in a bid to breathe life into US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's plan to slash Third World debt.

The meeting was unprecedented in that the Group of Seven — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy — had never before invited private bankers to a formal meeting.

But officials were eager to play down the importance of the gathering, just as they have tried to lower expectations for the debt plan itself since Brady launched it on March 10.

Mexico, the first test case of the Brady plan, and its bank creditors are still far apart in talks on a new financing package. Officials take seriously private warnings that it could halt payments on its \$37 billion long-term foreign bank debt unless a deal is struck within the next few weeks.

No statement was expected to be issued after the talks, which might continue today, especially if the deputy ministers take time out to discuss the high-flying dollar.

"The whole purpose is to get the view from the banks on what

their strategy is," Japanese Vice-Finance Minister Toyoo Gyohten said on Sunday. "This is not a negotiating process."

However, the US treasury, which has invested a lot of political capital in the Brady plan, sees the meeting as a useful opportunity to cajole banks into forgiving part of their old loans — the main plank of the American initiative.

Without debt relief, US officials fear, moderate leaders in Latin America will be unable to muster the political support to take the market-oriented economic reforms needed to pull their economies out of a decade-long slump.

They worry that the debt crisis will aid the rise of more populist politicians like Argentine Peronist leader Carlos Menem, who defeated the moderate candidate of the ruling radical Civic Union Party in presidential elections on Sunday.

Menem has said he would like to negotiate a five-year grace period free of interest payments on Argentina's medium- and long-term bank debt.

Bankers, while sympathetic to the treasury's strategic goals, are resisting pressure to write off part of the debt.

Banks have made tidy profits since the debt crisis erupted in 1982 by extending new loans so countries could pay interest on their old obligations. This in turn has enabled the banks to avoid recognising losses even though sliding prices in the open market indicate many of the loans will not be repaid.

John Reed, chairman of Citicorp, which has extensive operations in Latin America, would prefer to make new loans rather than write down old debt because it sees a creditworthy future for countries such as Mexico and Venezuela.

By contrast, Mexico, which was due to resume negotiations with banks today, says it will not become creditworthy unless the burden of old debts is eased. It wants to reduce net foreign payments by \$4.5 billion this year alone, preferably by getting banks to forgive half of their loans.

In the middle is the Group of Seven and the lending agencies it dominates — the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Brady has proposed that each institution lend \$12 billion over three years to finance debt reduction and to support interest payments on the debt that remains.

Japan's trade surplus increased

TOKYO, May 16, (UPI): Japan's global merchandise trade surplus in April increased 7.7 per cent over a year ago to \$7.30 billion, renewing an upward trend that was briefly broken in March following six consecutive monthly rises, the Finance Ministry announced today.

The ministry said Japan's surplus with the United States rose 10.4 per cent over a year ago to \$4.561 billion, up from March's figure of \$4.125 billion.

The global increase compared with March's surplus of \$6.74 billion, which represented a 9.7 per cent drop from a trade advantage of 7.46 billion in March 1988.

The ministry's preliminary figures showed that exports in April rose 3.2 per cent over a year ago to \$23.19 billion while imports edged forward 1.2 per cent to 15.89 billion.

The 3.2 per cent increase in exports was the lowest rise since October 1987, the ministry said.

The lacklustre performance of exports was mainly caused by the yen's slide against the dollar, an official said.

The exchange rate at which the value of exports was calculated was 132.12 yen in April, compared with 125.70 yen in April 1988.

The 1.2 per cent rise in imports compared with a 23.7 per cent increase in March.

By product, overall exports of computer chips posted the biggest gain of 39.7 per cent over the previous year to \$731.64 million while auto exports rose 0.8 per cent from a year earlier.

Imports of cars climbed sharply by 29 per cent while textiles jumped 19.1 per cent.

In US trade, exports rose 7.7

Japan's LDP told to find new leader fast

TOKYO, May 16, (Reuters): Japanese business leaders today told the ruling party to find a new prime minister quickly and said there was an urgent need to restore people's faith in politics in the wake of the Recruit scandal.

"We earnestly hope that the LDP (Liberal Democratic Party) will decide the succession as early as possible," Japan's four biggest business associations said in a public statement.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita announced last month he would resign over Japan's biggest postwar scandal in which most of the LDP leadership has been implicated.

Masayoshi Ito, the only leading party figure not implicated, last week refused to succeed him, throwing the party into even more turmoil.

No other candidates have emerged and some analysts think Takeshita may stay in the job for some time.

"It is seriously regrettable that the selection of the (prime minister) is delayed, postponing restoration of trust in politics," said the statement from Japan's Federation of Economic Organisations, the association of corporate executives, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Federation of Employers' Associations.

Big business has prospered under 34 years of uninterrupted LDP rule but is worried the shares-for-favours scandal could provoke a landslide against the party in forthcoming elections.

Meanwhile opposition politician Katsuya Ikeda has resigned his seat in parliament and quit the Buddhist-backed Komeito (clean government) party.

But Ikeda, widely reported to have been questioned by prosecutors handling the Recruit inquiry, continued to deny any wrongdoing.

Informed sources said today the LDP and opposition parties appeared close to a deal under which Yasuhiro Nakasone, Takeshita's predecessor as prime minister, would testify about the scandal before parliament.

per cent, fuelled by a 57 per cent advance in computer chip sales.

On the import side, the United States posted a 4.1 per cent increase, bolstered by meat imports.

Exports to the European Economic Community declined 1.4 per cent from the previous year to \$4.116 billion, dampened by sluggish auto exports.

EEC imports gained a moderate 2.3 per cent, due mainly to car

and textile sales.

Exports to Asia, including China, rose 8.0 per cent to \$6.874 billion, while those to the so-called newly industrialized economies (NIEs) gained 6.8 per cent.

Asian imports rose 1.2 per cent and those from Asia's NIEs climbed 3.8 per cent.

A sharp upswing in crude oil prices gave Mideast countries a 12.9 per cent increase in imports to \$1.873 billion.

Industrial output and factory use rise

WASHINGTON, May 16, (Reuters): The government reported yesterday that the industrial sector picked up strength in April after a two-month hiatus, but economists said the rebound did not signal a rekindling of inflation.

The Federal Reserve Board said industrial output rose 0.4 per cent in April, the highest since a 0.4 per cent gain in December. Output grew 0.3 per cent in March and fell 0.3 per cent in February.

Meanwhile, the operating rate at factories, mines and utilities also rose in April, but levels for January through March were revised downward, the Fed said.

Capacity use rose to 83.9 per cent last month from 83.7 per cent in March.

Peter Greenbaum of the Wall Street firm of Smith Barney, Harris Upham and Co. Inc. said the pace of production, measured against a year ago, has slowed.

"We're starting to see somewhat slower growth in demand for industrial orders," he said.

The Fed engineered a rise in interest rates earlier in the year to slow growth and dampen inflation.

The central bank's policy-making Federal Open Market Committee will meet today, and analysts say they do not expect a change in policy until the Fed has a clearer picture of growth after next month's unemployment rate report.

The March and February capacity use rates were revised downward from previous estimates of 84.0 per cent and 84.2 per cent, respectively.

In April, output of automobiles increased to an annual rate of 7.4 million units compared with 7.1 million in March.

In the broader category of consumer durable goods — items intended to last three years or more — production turned up dramatically, rising 0.9 per cent in April after falling 1.8 per cent in March.

Slaughter named AP general executive

NEW YORK, May 16, (AP): Thomas E. Slaughter, a veteran Associated Press newsmen and bureau chief, has been named a general executive at AP's international headquarters.

The appointment was announced yesterday by Louis D. Boccia, president of the news co-operative.

Slaughter, 40, has been chief of the AP's Seattle Bureau since 1985. He was bureau chief in Newark, New Jersey, for five years before that.

Slaughter joined the AP in Topeka, Kansas, in 1973. He also worked as a newsmen in Sioux Falls and Pierre, South Dakota, and Denver before being named correspondent in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1976. His other assignments were at Tallahassee, Florida, correspondent in 1978 and assistant chief of bureau in Dallas the following year.

Slaughter is a native of Salina, Kansas, and a graduate of the University of Kansas. He recently earned a Master's degree in business administration from City University in Bellevue, Washington.

WPP agrees to buy Ogilvy for \$864 m

Boards of both firms approve pact

NEW YORK, May 16, (AP): WPP Group PLC said early today that it had agreed to acquire its rival Ogilvy Group Inc. for \$864 million in a deal that would create the world's second largest advertising and marketing services company.

The announcement, which was made shortly after midnight, said the London-based WPP Group would pay \$54 a share for all of Ogilvy's common stock.

The agreement was approved by the boards of both companies.

The companies had been in formal discussions on the buyout since last Friday after WPP indicated that it would be willing to increase an earlier buyout offer of \$30 a share in order to secure a friendly agreement.

The agreement would allow the New York-based Ogilvy Group to operate autonomously within WPP, a fast-growing conglomerate of advertising agencies, public relations and marketing services companies.

Ogilvy chairman Kenneth Roman will continue to head the Ogilvy operations within WPP.

In an added inducement believed to have helped cement the deal, WPP said it would name Ogilvy founder David Ogilvy chairman of WPP Group. The current WPP chairman, John Symonds, will become deputy chairman.

Only two years ago, WPP stunned the advertising world with its unsolicited but successful buyout of the parent of another US advertising giant, J. Walter Thompson. That deal had cost \$566 million.

The combination of WPP Group and Ogilvy Group will produce an advertising and marketing services giant that would have had combined billings in 1988 of about \$13.5 billion.

That would put it only slightly behind the industry leader, Saatchi and Saatchi PLC, which is based in London and had billings of just over \$13.5 billion in 1988, according to the trade magazine

Advertising Age.

"While we would have preferred to remain independent and pursued many options to that end, we became convinced that a combination with WPP represented the most attractive course for the future of our organization," said Ogilvy's Roman.

He said that after "intensive conversations, I am convinced that WPP shares our commitment and dedication to the highest creative standards and service to clients."

WPP's chief executive, Martin Sorrell, said the combined company will create "the finest advertising and marketing services group in the world."

Sorrell said he intended to pay for the acquisition by raising about \$350 million through an issue of convertible preferred stock. The rest would come from loans.

In over-the-counter trading Monday, Ogilvy closed at \$33.25 a share, up 25 cents.

Ogilvy, based in New York and founded in 1948, is one of the better known names in the advertising business and boasts a host of blue-chip clients including American Express Co., American Telephone and Telegraph Co. and Sears, Roebuck and Co.

WPP began its effort to acquire Ogilvy on April 30, telling Ogilvy executives in a letter it was prepared to pay \$45 a share for Ogilvy.

Ogilvy responded by saying it preferred to remain independent but that its board would review WPP's proposal in due course.

On May 8, WPP said it had proposed to pay \$50 a share for Ogilvy stock. Four days later Ogilvy said it had entered into formal discussions with WPP after WPP indicated it may pay even more than that.

According to sources familiar with Sorrell's post-merger plans, Ogilvy would be operated autonomously from Thompson.

Joint pact signed

AMWETC eyes Kuwait market

DUBAI, May 16, A large Indian group of companies and a UAE-based company yesterday signed a joint agreement and outlined plans to win a big slice of the engineering, construction and building services markets in the Gulf.

AI Mutaiwiri Western India Engineering and Trading Company (AMWETC), which will immediately begin chasing business in Kuwait, targets an annual turnover building up to US\$50 million within the next five years.

AMWETC was formed as a result of the joint agreement signed at a press conference in Dubai yesterday by the Western India Group of Companies of India and AI Mutaiwiri Ellis, which is part of the Obaid Ghannim group of companies in the UAE.

The Western India Group of Companies, with around 3,000 employees and head offices in

New Delhi, believes business opportunities in the Gulf are soaring following the end of the Iraq-Iran conflict.

"The ending of the Gulf war has given a thrust to the new and re-construction activities in the Gulf, and the economy is again open for fresh investments," said a Western India spokesman.

By entering into the joint agreement with the Western India Group, and we are confident that the arrangement will be very profitable for both parties," said Barrie Harmsworth, managing partner of AI Mutaiwiri Ellis, which is well established in the building services industry in the UAE.

"We are delighted to enter into this joint agreement with the Western India Group, and we are confident that the arrangement will be very profitable for both parties," said Barrie Harmsworth, managing partner of AI Mutaiwiri Ellis, which is well established in the building services industry in the UAE.

Politicians warned of environmental 'vigilantes'

Conditions questioned

NAIROBI, May 16, (Reuters): Politicians around the world were warned today they would be tailed by "vigilantes" demanding action to save the environment.

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) executive director, Mostafa Tolba, issued the warning and told the organisation's governing council there should be more action to support recent gains made by the environmental movement.

"So far the signs of the sustained, universal level of action we require are still few and far between," Tolba said.

"The politicians have spoken, the public, UNEP and the environmental movement in general will be vigilantes watching and pressing for those words to be translated into deeds."

He told the opening session of the council's 11-day biennial

conference, which some 200 delegates from 70 countries were expected to attend, that UNEP should focus on six priorities.

He listed climate and atmospheric pollution, pollution and shortage of fresh water, deterioration of oceans and coastal areas, land degradation, biological impoverishment and hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals.

Concern about the environment had brought dozens of governments into conventions aimed at phasing out chemicals that damage the ozone layer, and tackling global warming and the movement of hazardous waste.

At the same time there was overwhelming evidence of public concern that governments were not doing enough to protect the environment, Tolba said, citing last week's UNEP-sponsored

Ruling party blames defeat on economic crisis

BUENOS AIRES, May 16, (Reuters): Carlos Menem, a flamboyant disciple of Juan Peron, has won the Argentine presidency promising pay raises and "a productive revolution" amid fears that a new bout of "Peronism" could plunge Argentina into deeper economic chaos.

The ruling Radical Party yesterday blamed its defeat to the opposition Peronists in Sunday's general elections on the country's economic crisis and warned the situation could worsen.

"The economic crisis has cost us a government and I believe it will cost us even dearer," the Radical Party's Vice-President Cesar Jorjovsky, a close adviser to President Raul Alfonsin, told reporters.

After 5-1/2 years in power the Radicals went to the polls with the economy on the verge of hyper-inflation, unemployment high and salaries with almost a third less purchasing power than when Alfonsin took office in December 1983.

Menem, the flamboyant governor of the impoverished northwestern province of La Rioja, swept his Peronist Party back into power 13 years after their last government was toppled by a military coup.

With 94 per cent of the vote counted, Menem had 49 per cent support and centrist Radical candidate Eduardo Angeloz 37 per cent.

Market reacted cautiously to Menem's victory. Trading in Argentine loans on the secondary market for sovereign debt halted, dealers in London told Reuters.

Shortly after Menem claimed victory on Sunday night a leading Peronist economist said that after the party takes power on December 10 it would seek a massive reduction in Argentina's \$60 billion external debt.

Private Argentine economists said the two main parties must take urgent measures to reduce the country's public sector deficit, estimated at 15 per cent of the gross domestic product.

"If inflation is not contained before December 10 we may face social unrest," former Treasury Secretary Juan Alemann told Reuters. Private estimates put inflation at above 50 per cent for May alone.

Senator Eduardo Menem, a brother-in-law of the president-elect, suggested Peronism would not stand on the sidelines if the situation soured. "We won't stand still in a passive attitude, in the face of the crisis," Eduardo Menem said.

Egypt, Moscow to boost trade relations

CAIRO, May 16, (KUNA): Egypt and the Soviet Union are keen on progressing joint co-operation to the maximum levels, particularly in economic spheres, visiting Soviet Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev said here today.

The minister, told reporters after meeting President Hosni Mubarak, that the growing Soviet-Egyptian relations were reviewed and their effect on promoting "humanitarian relations between the two peoples."

He quoted the President as expressing satisfaction with results of their higher joint committee and underlined that volume of trade exchange between the two states is expected this year to reach \$800 million, an increase of \$200 million compared to the previous year.

The committee, during its recent Cairo meeting, endorsed a number of basic projects within framework of future co-operation, the minister said, adding that they targeted strengthening co-operation between them until the year 2000.

Equities continue to outperform bonds

(Continued from Page 9)

1982 coupled with higher oil prices, and the possibility of a unified 15 per cent withholding tax on investment income in European Economic Community countries as part of the single market in 1992.

The Japanese stock market extended its winning streak surpassing the 32,000 barrier for the first time on the NDI, though expectations of possible margin trading restrictions and mounting uncertainties linked to the painful unfolding of stock scandal limited further advances.

Inspiring the upward trend were the remarkable performance of the domestic economy particularly the continued build-up of the trade surplus that widened to \$7.219 billion in February for the sixth consecutive month from \$5.240 billion a year ago, an impending change in tax laws that would curb the number of stock transactions allowed for individual investors per year, the Wall Street's buoyancy, and the continued high level of domestic liquidity.

However, the rally on the bond market faltered, despite tight demand/supply situation.

VIDEO CORNER

An impressive outing with 'special' fly

By Shaun Seekins

THE nightmare continues with The Fly II, after the death of scientist Seth Brundle when girlfriend Veronica Quaife awakens from a six-month coma to give birth to Seth's baby son. The apparently normal child is born in a delivery room at Bartok Industries where he is 'adopted' by the owner and given the name of Martin Brundle. The boy grows into a man very quickly, he ages 20 years in a five-year span, and is soon ready to set about solving the mysteries of his father's teleportation device.

To no one's surprise Martin discovers, after a night with co-worker Beth Logan, that he too is infected with the insect chromosome and begins to evolve into a hideous monster. All of this delights his even mentor Anton Bartok, who has more use for Brundle's fly chromosome than he does for the teleporter.

The Fly II marks the directorial debut of special effects master Chris Walas (he did them for the 1986 predecessor) and it is an impressive outing from a technical point of view. Walas is clearly at home with the film's many gory special effects scenes but he seems less sure of himself when handed the emotional characterisations. Martin's character might have been made more psychologically complex and his romance with Beth more believably eccentric. However, the film's primary appeal is to young horror fans who will be less concerned with its emotional pulse than with the body count.

More traditional horror with To Die For, as one of the characters in the film said, brandishing a copy of Dracula: "It's all here. But Bram Stoker only got it half right." The half he didn't get right, apparently, is that Count Dracula (based on real life Romanian folk hero and all round tyrant Vlad Tepes) is alive and well and living in California. He covers up his real identity by only coming out at night, wearing slightly bizarre clothing and changing his name to Vlad Tepes.

At a groovy yacht party Vlad casts his mysterious spell over the rich and good-looking Kate Wooten. She fails to resist which strikes her boyfriend as extremely annoying. Vlad gets annoyed also, and, transfiguring into a vampire/werewolf causes mayhem. A bit silly at times, it nevertheless has gruesome and convincing special effects although not on



Eric Stoltz, Daphne Zuniga and Lee Richardson in The Fly II.

the same technical level as The Fly II.

Around The World In 80 Days is a new made for American TV bestseller, based on the Jules Verne story about the Victorian gentleman and his valet who set off around the world to win a wager. Starring Pierce Brosnan and Eric Idle together with a host of cameo parts filled by well known faces.

A Quiet Conspiracy is a well produced British bestseller starring Joss Ackland, Sarah Winman. Ackland plays a one-time ace journalist Theo Carter, living in Strasbourg who one day receives an emergency phone call from the owner of the magazine he is currently editing; General Novak has stumbled on a top-secret NATO project called 'Medalus' which is the origin of a strange conspiracy. Carter's old newshound instincts are aroused and soon he and his daughter Val are in danger in the world of espionage.

I'm Gonna Get You Socks is a fast moving action-comedy. Dark Before Dawn and Fatal Judgement are two new TV dramas and Famous Five Go To Smuggler's Top is a new children's mystery story. Top of the Pops, May, is available together with a new collection



Ackland with co-star Sarah Winman in A Quiet Conspiracy.

89. We have just received the permission for Dangerous Liaisons and The Accidental Tourists so these will be released as soon as possible and

reviewed next week. The above films are by courtesy of VFI, Fintas/Farwaniya; Video Naut, Salmiya, Tel: 2432809; and Video Club, Salmiya, Tel: 5724372.

Half-baked soldier stories and rhyming films

Gail Seery
Arab Times staff

YOUR performance defies belief — Sergeant Barker tells private Zimmel in Your Mother Wears Combat Boots — a particularly apt remark if we take it to apply to the film as a whole. If you still enjoy Private Benjamin, believed in the verisimilitude of Feds, or are under twelve, you will thoroughly enjoy this video.

The plot is roughly what you would get if you put the screenplays for Fed and Private Benjamin, and maybe some weepy tear-jerker about a mother's love for her son, into a blender, popped it into the oven — and then ran out of gas so that the final effect was half-baked.

Don't let the young and attractive persona of this lady fool you — Jimmy Anderson has a domineering mother. She is determined he is going to college, he is determined he is not, and as soon as she has gone to Alaska to do whatever it is that people do in Alaska, he runs away and joins the army. Any mother would be put out, or maybe dismayed — fortunately few would wish to humiliate him by chasing after him to bring him back.

"My son accidentally joined the army and I need to get him out," she explains. However, he has already left for advanced training at an undisclosed location. Where other mothers might have accepted defeat, this one spots an abandoned kitbag, conveniently belonging to a lady soldier who has gone AWOL.

She grabs it and picks up her new identity as Susan Zimmel. Despite the fact that she can do ten press-ups without the least effort, she proves to be appalling at everything she tries to do — and of course, all she is doing is trying to find Jimmy so that she can talk him out of the ultimate achievement of the course — the parachute drop from a Hercules aircraft.

But when she tracks him down, he refuses to give way, betting her that she will drop out, or be discovered. She is determined not to quit before he does, and the film degenerates into a sort of wishy washy suspense of who will jump — will they both jump? Will neither jump? Will she jump while he doesn't? Or will he jump while she trembles at the back of the plane? If you are one of the exceptional people who might find such suspense enough to keep you awake till the end of the film, I suggest you lose no time in getting hold of a copy. Meanwhile, the film gibbers relentlessly on with a total lack of concern for the bad example it is setting for other mothers.

I have also made an important discovery which I feel I must share with every reader, on purely humanitarian grounds. Films which nearly rhyme with "itch" are not very good. I would particularly like to warn you against Splitz which tells the tale of a female rock 'n' roll band who thwart the evil intentions of the College Dean by hypnotising her, and Glitch, a totally incomprehensible story, flags so much in the first ten minutes that even cats wouldn't watch it beyond the titles. You have been warned.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING
9.00 Holy Quran
9.10 Sabah Al Khir
9.15 Cartoons
9.45 Magazine D'Actualite
10.00 Yaseen Wa Bahiya: Arabic serial (Part 7)
10.45 News Summary and Varieties
11.00 Al Aswar: local serial (part 7)
12.00 News Summary and Varieties
12.15 Circus
1.00 News Summary
1.05 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 The World News via Satellite
4.45 Sherlock Holmes: cartoon serial
5.15 Ma'a Al Talaba: prepared by the School Activity Department at the Education Ministry
6.00 Nadam: Arabic serial (part one), starring Abdul Majed Majdoub, Mohammed Ibrahim, Muna Wasef and Nadiya Hamdi
8.00 Al Iskan Wa Al Muwatan.
8.30 Masa' Al Khir
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Layali Al Hilmiya
10.45 Wadi Al Ghazal: Bedouin serial (part

one), starring Mahmood Saeed, Sabah Jazaeri, and Ideeb Qadoora
11.45 News Summary
11.50 The World News via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening Announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Racoon. A cartoon serial for children
6.30 Mac and Multy. A look at rosy parrots... Training monkeys to help crippled people... A cat eats by spoon and fork...
7.00 Danger Bay. "Eagles Fly Alone." When several wounded eagles are brought to the aquarium Dr Grant sets out to learn who is doing the shooting.
7.30 Body Matters. "Standing up!" How man stands up? ... How an elephant stands up!
8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law
8.45 Sonny Spoon. "The Tough Habit." Sonny is charged to find an orphan young girl by a tough nun who runs an orphanage...
9.30 The Cosby Show: Cosby exploits his youngest daughter because of borrowing money from him...
10.00 Just for the Record. The most busiest airport in the world... The tallest cop... a war is waged against drugs in Miami...
10.30 Feature film. "The Woman He Loved."
12.00 News in brief
12.15 Magazine d'Actualite



A scene from the Danger Bay series 'Eagles Fly Alone' on KTV 2 at 7.00 pm today.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Ghanem Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St., near the Carlton Hotel
Al Hakim Pharmacy
Sharq, Jaber Al Mubarak St.

Hawalli and Nagra
Nura Pharmacy
Al Othman St., Nagra, near Hamad Al Barak Mosque

Salmiya and Rumailhiya
Dina Pharmacy
Amman St. Shu'a Al Sabah Bldg.
Fahadheel and Ahmadi
Al Sibah Pharmacy
Fahadheel
New Kheitan
Chazwa Pharmacy
Al Shamali St., opposite to the police station
Jahra
Al Najah Pharmacy
The fourth area, Plot 48, Badr Al Smaith Company.

CINEMA TODAY

Andalus
Iron Angels
Salmiya
Nuts
Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-In
Arabic film
Firdous
Andha Yudh
Starring: Raj Babbar, Pallavi Joshi
Fahadheel Open Air
Aag Ke Sholay
Fahadheel
Arabic Film
Jahra
Nadine

Granada
Arabic Film
Salaikhah
Theruvu Narthagi
Al Jleeb
1921
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic Film

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.25 am
Zuhr	11.44
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.34
Isha	8.01

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.00 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts; ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon, 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Bangladesh Art Show
UPTO May 27. Bangladeshi artist Monirul Islam will show 45 paintings at the Kuwait National Museum. Islam's paintings revolve around the life of Bangladeshis. Landscapes are also on show. The exhibition will be open from 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm. It has been organised by the Bangladesh Association.

MUSIC

Kuwait Singers
KUWAIT Singers present "Stage Struck" an evening of show songs from Broadway and the West End at Gulf English School, Salwa on Wednesday 24th May at 8.00 pm. Price KD3 to include refreshments. For reservations please phone 5317433/5384873.

Geet and Ghazals
The Geet and Ghazals concert, Bhoolay Bisey Geet, due to be held on May 19 at the Sharq auditorium has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. A new date will be announced later.

Musical evening
MAY 17: (8.30 pm). The Phil

FILMS

British Council
MAY 20/21 (6.30 pm): "A Room With a View," an adaptation of E.M. Forster's novel will be shown at the British Council, Mansouriya. Featuring an incomparable cast, recipient of three Oscars, it tells the story of Lucy Honeychurch (Helena Bonham-Carter), a beautiful young English girl abroad, whose emotions are rocked when she witnesses a murder, and whose life is forever altered by the sudden and mysterious arrival of a passionate young man. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 251-5512; 253-3204; 252-2327.

SOCIAL

Ex-Theo get-together
MAY 18: Roorkee University Alumni Association will have a family get-together. For details contact tele. 2551305 or 5631325.

Casualty Cricket Club
MAY 18: 8 pm, Messilah Beach Hotel. Annual dinner with special guest speaker Brian Close CBE, former captain of England and Yorkshire. Courtesy of British Airways. Live music. For tickets and information call Simon Clements (5333248) or Val Tudball (5327159).

Kuwait Caledonians
MAY 18: Messilah Beach Hotel. The Caledonians will hold a "celebith" (gathering) with entertainment by John Carmichael and others. Tel: 5335082; 3727690 ext. 253.

ACT play

MAY 16-18: ACT presents a play by Raymond Briggs, "When the Wind Blows" at the Mousetrap Theatre in Jahriya at 8 pm both days. For reservations call: 5620332, 4-8 pm.

Summer Bazaar

MAY 19: 2.00 pm, St Pauls Ahmadi, grand summer bazaar at the new British Consulate in the British Embassy grounds, sale of handicrafts, paperbacks, preserves good as new, plants, bottle stall, white elephant, numerous fun side shows etc. Plus prize draw for British Airways round trip ticket Kuwait-London. Delhi, Madras or Karachi.

Arabian Nights
MAY 19: Arabian Nights evening at the Jawhara Nightclub, Messilah Beach Hotel. Dress: Middle Eastern, past or present; 20 costume prizes; candlelit dinner — 9 pm. Tel: 4847461 or leave message on 2614201.

Jukebox 5
MAY 23-25: The Sounds Great production of Jukebox 5, will be presented at the Salmiyah Cinema at 8 pm and also at 5 pm on May 25. For reservations ring 5740256/7 (mornings and 4 to 7 pm) or 5718143 or 5721782. Tickets will be on sale at Salmiyah Cinema Box Office from May 14.

Children's film

May 24 (6 pm); May 25 (10.30 am): Heidi, a BBC production of one of the most popular children's stories, is set amidst the scenery of the Swiss Alps. It is about Heidi, a young spirited Swiss orphan, who is taken to live with her grandfather in the mountains; unexpectedly, she has to leave her beloved mountains and live with a strange family in the city. This children's film will be shown at the British Council, Mansouriya. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

Indian Arts Circle

May 25: The IAC will hold a one-hour variety show, followed by a prize-distribution ceremony for the winners of the One-Act Play Competition, recently conducted by them. The names of the winners will be announced on May 25 at the ceremony, which will be followed by dinner. For reservations call 3904817; 2644863; 3903879; 3920165.

One-act play

MAY 25: IAC One-act play competition awards nite. IAC members please contact (office) tele 3904817 after 7 pm for passes. Participating teams contact P.C. George at 4739359 for passes.

Nomads Oval Ball

MAY 25 (Thursday): Nomads Oval Ball at Holiday Inn hotel. Formal dress; 7.30 pm start. Guest speaker from UK. Music and buffet dinner. Limited number of tickets available. For details call Graham Adams — 5644533; Hugh McAree 5326328.

Mando Festival

MAY 26: For the first time in the history of Goans in Kuwait — Kuwait Konkani Kendr (KKK) is going to organise a Konkani Mando Festival at Hotel Meridien starting at 10.30 am. For details please contact 2644983.

Alumni association
ALL alumnus of College of Engineering, Trivandrum, please contact any of the following telephones numbers: Thomas, 4895268; Satim, 5617293; Baboi, 2412653; Thomas, 5616601; and Joseph 5615133.

Kuwait Welsh Society
MAY 31: The annual general meeting of the society will be held on Wednesday at 8 pm. For details call 391-2384; 372-9132; 371-3467; 562-5316.

Konkani Drama

JUNE 15, 16: Nashibacho Divo Paloulo, the Konkani drama which has been scheduled to stage on May 18 and 19 has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. The MAR productions drama, directed by Prem Kumar, now plans to stage on June 15 and 16 at 4.00 pm at Indian Arts Circle. For entry passes please contact Raja Stores, tele. 2412970.

Get-together

JUNE 16: The Go-Go Club will be having a get-together at the Ramada Al Salem Hotel from 11 am onwards with Stepping Stones and Symphony in attendance. For details contact Raju 2412970 and Tony 2631826 after 3.30 pm.

SPORTS

At the Holiday Inn:

SWIMMING lessons have commenced which is available for non-members.

Mondays (6 to 7 pm) separate ladies and men's fit classes with Steve and Chris Hill.

Saturdays and Wednesdays (5 to 6 pm) ladies aerobics and Saturdays (6 to 7 pm) mixed aerobics, with Toufi Pakasalo. Saturdays and Tuesdays

yoga (7 to 8 pm). Bowling alley available for company tournaments.

Sundays squash handicap tournament, all standards welcome. Tennis coaching available for non-members. Additional facilities available under the supervision of selective professionals: loss of weight, body building, massage (steam-oil-and cream) for ladies and men. Contact the recreation department on 4742000 ext. 6788 or 6700.

GARMENTS SALE

Large variety of left-over garments at price of KD1.000 & KD1.500, only at sales department of

SHIRTS
AT 500 FILS

FAMILY CARE CENTRE
FARWANIYA MAIN STREET
OPP. FARWANIYA CLINIC
Tel: 4716181

Where would you spend summer this year?

The Kuwait French School announces the holding of the Summer Camp
Registration for the camp at the school in Salmiya is open.

For more details, pls call tel. 5611870, 5611960

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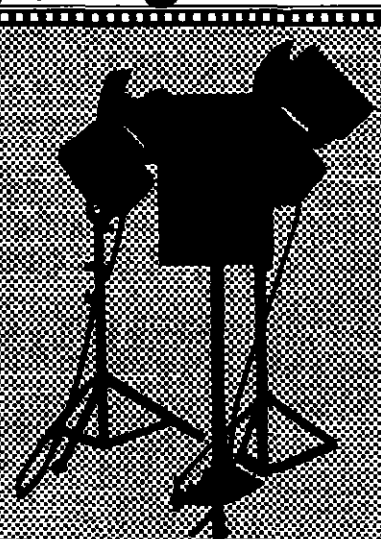
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ARAB TIMES

Photographic Services



By Kathy Cuddihy

Antique delights

I USED to love antique hunting with trendy friends in Europe. In hushed tones we would discuss the merits of this piece of silver or that piece of furniture. Although not yet possessed with their dignified negotiating abilities, I told myself that someday I, too, would have a sharp eye for a bargain and enough decorum to make my purchases with finesse.

Then we got transferred to Riyadh. And lo and behold the city boasted a thriving antique souk. Here was my chance to come into my own as a connoisseur of objets d'art.

Off I traipsed to the souk, not knowing quite what to expect, but confident I could cope with most situations. I was wrong. Nothing had prepared me for the antique souk.

Instead of push shops on elegant avenues, the souk had funny little hole-in-the-wall outlets facing onto dirt laneways. The setting looked more antique than the items for sale. Amid the neglected hotchpotch, it was a challenge merely to unearth the goods.

Even the vendors were an unknown quantity. As often as not, they absented themselves from their shops, or didn't bother making themselves known to potential customers. They were certainly a far cry from the polished, and sometimes pushy, sales staff in Europe.

My initial reaction was mixed, ranging from distaste to dismay but, with a spirit of resigned adventure, I rolled up my sleeves and began rummaging through the

rubble.

Many of the items were of dubious value, but I reminded myself that "one man's junk is another man's treasure." Then, at the bottom of a precariously stacked pile of "junk", I unearthed some interesting treasures: an unusual incense burner, an old wooden bowl with a crack that had been "stitched" with wire, and a silver tray with etchings of Makkah and Medina. Each item "spoke" to me and begged me to take it home. After a timid attempt at bargaining, I became the proud owner of this dusty collection for the princely sum of 35 riyals.

I cleaned and stained the wooden pieces and resilvered the tray. They had a new lease on life and I had a new hobby.

The more often I visited the souk, the more adept I became at the necessary skills. With increasing regularity, I wandered the dark, narrow laneways, practising my Arabic in lively conversation with one or more of my favourite dealers.

Sometimes negotiations would last for several weeks until the merchant, exhausted by my tenacity, would grudgingly relent and make a satisfactory compromise on the price. Once in a while I could achieve the same results in only one morning.

"What on earth is that?" I asked with idle curiosity, pointing to a large object on an uppermost shelf in the cluttered shop.

"Oh, that's a ?????", my sales friend replied. He called it by an unfamiliar Arabic name, so his explanation didn't enlighten me. Moreover, my acute shortsightedness precluded any visual recognition.

"Shall I get it down for you to examine?" he offered kindly.

"No, no, please don't bother. I'm sure it's a fine specimen." Whatever it is. Although not interested in buying anything that day, for form's sake I asked the price.

"Ah, that is a rare treasure, but I can make a sacrifice and offer it to you for only 380 riyals," came his quick and eager reply. "My friend, that seems an outrageous price. Perhaps I misheard you."

"Please, make me an offer, any offer. You are my favourite customer and I don't want you to walk away empty-handed."

Oh, well, I thought, what harm could there possibly be? Besides, it would achieve my main objective of keeping the Arabic banter in play.

"Alright, then," I agreed amiably. "How does 45 riyals take your fancy?" "Have you gone quite mad, dear lady?" the poor man spluttered. "You don't seem to understand that this is a unique find."

"You're probably right. Perhaps I shouldn't even be considering the purchase of something whose value I cannot fully appreciate." "Please, friend, I want you to have it. Think carefully, now, and make

me another offer."

By the time I had shared several cups of tea with him and discussed the local news in some detail, my offer had risen to the grand total of 72 riyals. Since I had no idea what it was I was bargaining for, the amount seemed more than generous.

Eventually I had to go. He must have been quite desperate to rid himself of this mysterious "unique find" because, no sooner had I left his shop, than he came after me, attracted my attention and simply nodded his head. Unwittingly, I had bought a ????.

We returned to the shop and he clamboured over the disarray to retrieve my purchase.

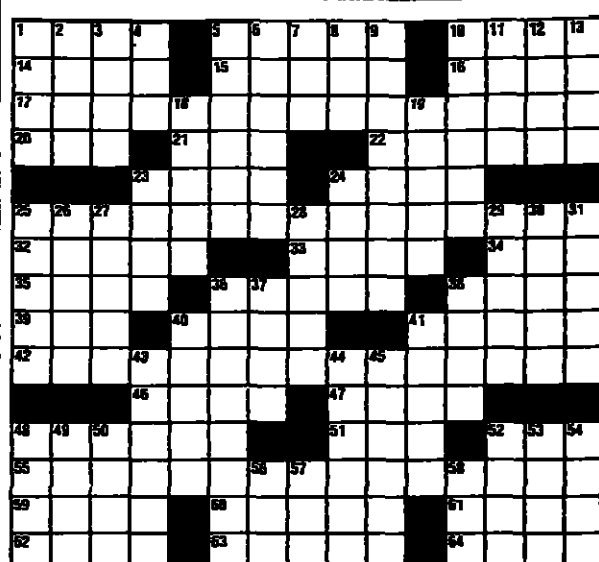
"Good grief, what on earth is this?" I asked once again, viewing a broad-based, narrow-necked pot that stood as high as my waist.

Realising that I had never understood in the first place, the merchant used mime to tell me that this "rare item" was a water jug.

Charming, I'm sure, but how could I explain this "bargain" to my husband? Awkwardly, I lugged the monstrous home. Later, the museum verified the jug's identity and confirmed that, because of its size, it was indeed an uncommon piece. It looked as though I had a "treasure" after all.

For an insignificant sum, I had enjoyed a morning's entertainment which culminated in my very own much-prized "objet d'art". Somehow, value like this makes the antique markets of Europe pale in comparison.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Boutique
 - 5 Leaf pest
 - 10 Partner of cool and collected
 - 14 Operated a loom
 - 15 Tag data
 - 16 Director-writer
 - 17 Right tidy
 - 20 Harden
 - 21 Catch something
 - 22 Phobias
 - 23 Against
 - 24 On the Coral
 - 25 Bread spread
 - 32 Country in N. cen. England
 - 33 Decamped
 - 34 Whitney's bequest
 - 35 Sleep fitfully
 - 36 Attack
 - 38 Smell — (suspect)
 - 39 Individual
 - 40 Bartlett
 - 41 Dictates
 - 42 Admired
 - 43 complexion
 - 46 Adjutant
 - 47 On the road
 - 48 Designed for singing
 - 51 Old salt
 - 52 Ewe said it!
 - 55 Twain hero
 - 59 TV's Johnson
- DOWN**
- 1 Chug-a-lug
 - 2 Sharpen
 - 3 Office of the President
 - 4 Pizzazz
 - 5 Fine-grained granite
 - 6 Fight-card entry
 - 7 Torso
 - 8 "— on parole..."
 - 9 Garden center
 - 10 Breakfast option
 - 11 "M.A.S.H." star
 - 12 Schubert song
 - 13 Imperfections
 - 18 Threes
 - 19 Mountain nymph
 - 23 Echidna's diet
 - 24 Woody's boy
 - 25 Leading
 - 26 TV's Arledge
 - 27 Confused
 - 28 Theatrical org.
- ACROSS**
- 60 "— Dracula": 1943 movie
 - 61 out (made do)
 - 62 Boer burg
 - 63 Ballet birds
 - 64 The lawn at dawn, often
- DOWN**
- 29 See eye to eye
 - 30 British princess
 - 31 insect sci.
 - 36 Like some grapes
 - 37 Comfort
 - 38 Give it — (have at)
 - 40 Perfume bottle
 - 41 Fearsome
 - 43 Worried, of yore
 - 44 A sodium carbonate
 - 45 Towers over
 - 48 Cartoonist
 - 49 Addams
 - 50 Numerical prefix
 - 52 Ten-speed
 - 53 Freshly
 - 54 Actor
 - 57 Alfonso's queen
 - 58 T-man

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

NEUTRALIZE THE DISTRIBUTION

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ K 9 6 5
 ♥ 7 3
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ A 8 6 3

WEST
 ♠ J
 ♥ Q J 10 4
 ♦ K 9 8 6 5 3 2
 ♣ 4

EAST
 ♠ Q 10 3
 ♥ K 6 2
 ♦ Q J 10
 ♣ J 10 7 5

SOUTH
 ♠ A 7 4 2
 ♥ A 9 5
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K Q 9 2

The bidding:
 North East South West
 Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♥

Looking at all four hands, the play at four spades is simple. However, after a heart lead can you guarantee your contract, assuming trumps are no worse than 3-1, if all you could see is your side's assets?

North's jump to three spades showed a hand worth almost an opening bid and four-card support. South had more than enough to continue on to game.

West led the top of his heart sequence and, since there was no point to a holdup play, declarer took the ace. If trumps were 2-2, declarer could claim the contract regardless of the club situation, so he cashed the king-ace only to learn that he

had a loser in that suit. The club suit now became crucial.

Looking at all four hands, it is obvious that declarer can pick up the clubs with two finesse. But that would be a foolish line to adopt since a 3-2 break with split honors is far more likely than the precise 4-1 distribution that actually existed. But declarer found a way to neutralize any distribution of the club suit.

He cashed the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond, then cashed the king of clubs. With his ground-work completed, he exited with a heart. The defenders did as well as they could by taking their two heart tricks, ending in the East hand. East cashed his high trump but, since a red-suit lead would give declarer a ruff-shuff, he was forced to exit with a club; he chose the ten.

Declarer let that ride round to dummy's ace. Had West followed, declarer would have cashed the queen and claimed. But when West showed out, the finesse for the jack was marked and the contract was safe. Note that, had declarer not cashed the king of clubs early, he would have been faced with a guess in the club suit. South's line would have proved equally effective had clubs split 5-0, or if West held four clubs. Try it, if you don't believe us.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SWING SLOPE HAIR
 LINER TEAL OLLA
 ASTRO OCHO ODIN
 WHOOPSITUP TEAK
 ECCE EMEWDS
 AVERSE ROSIN
 BALI NOMO RAISE
 ELAPSED PRANCER
 TENSE ELSE NEAR
 NACRE ABYSSMS
 ANGORIA AIOA
 DOER DONNYBROOK
 DIET DATA BURMA
 ERSE IRON LICIT
 DEER ESSE UNATE



"What have I told you about letting the cat in when the huddle's out?"

Weekly Quiz

How dare you?

By Judy Byrne

SOME people are so naturally daring they have only to bear of a challenge to go into psychological overdrive.

Over the Niagara Falls in a barrel? Across and back on a tightrope will do nicely, thank you.

Others people are so timid they cannot bear even to watch. Some rush into difficult relationship without even pausing to draw breath.

Others call them fools and stand their distance while they check out everything from insurance policies to dental records before they agree to a date.

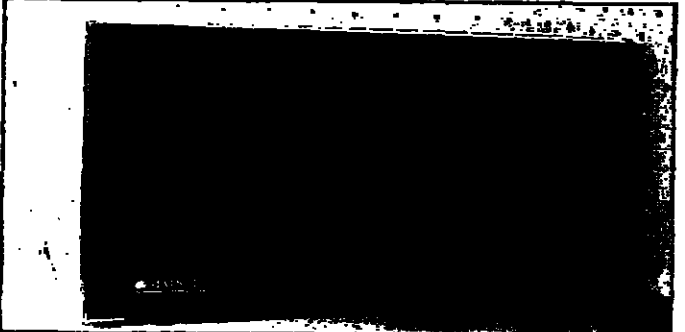
How daring are you? Where do you fit in the spectrum? The pictures below and questions will help you find out.



1. Answer quickly off the top of your head. What came into your mind when you first glanced at this picture:
- An adventure holiday in outback Australia
 - Even a picture of you is creepy
 - Crocodile Dundee
 - I'd be terrified if I met you on a dark night
 - What an interesting prehistoric survivor?



2. If you saw Princess Diana heading straight for you on a walkabout, would you:
- Move.
 - Think immediately of a question you've always wanted to ask her.
 - Feel your knees turn to jelly.
 - Think: "I'll dine out for months on this."
 - Stand still and hope you were wrong and she would keep on walking?

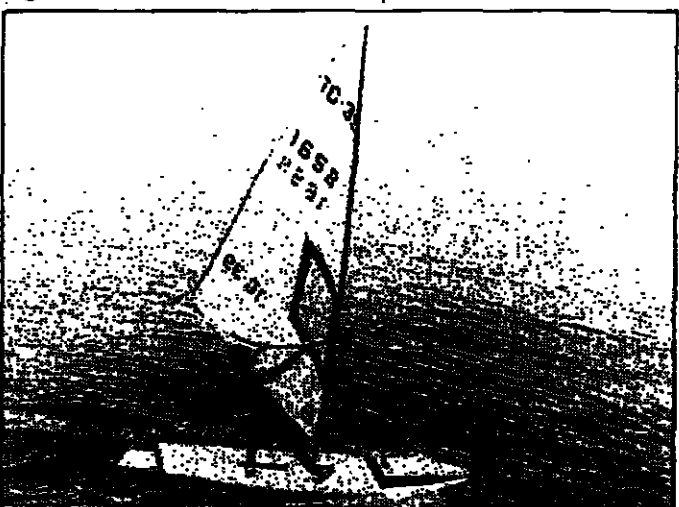


3. Don't stop and think. Straight off the top of your head. Is this:
- A great technological advance
 - A useful tool
 - A source of possible danger
 - Probably a passing fad
 - Something you must one day get around to finding out more about?

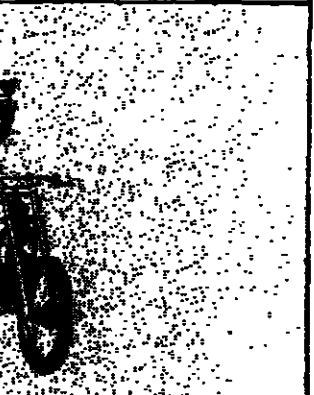
4. Do you think this is:
- Sinister
 - Probably only a fake
 - Dangerous in the wrong hands
 - A source of power
 - Protection?



5. Does this make you think:
- I'd love to windsurf
 - I'd love windsurfing
 - I'd like to windsurf but I'm sure I wouldn't be good at it
 - I'd like to windsurf but I'd probably be injured
 - Wild horses would not drag me within shouting distance of windsurfing?



6. What do you feel about this scene:
- What a flash Harry.
 - What a lucky devil.
 - What a brave man.
 - What an idiot.
 - How terrifying?



HOW TO SCORE

Give yourself points for your answers from the table below and total them up.

	a	b	c	d	e
1	15	5	10	0	20
2	0	20	0	20	10
3	20	15	0	5	10
4	0	20	5	15	10
5	15	20	10	5	0
6	15	20	10	5	0

WHAT YOUR SCORE MEANS

0 — 35: You don't need me to tell you that you will probably never conquer Everest or join the ranks of explorers of Darkest Africa. So what? Vacancies for both jobs are strictly limited.

You probably will never marry anyone you met a week before the wedding, either. The real drawback in your lack of daring is that you could easily let the world push you around. It will — if you let it. So when you see that coming, screw up your courage and fight back.

40 — 50: You are not one of life's daredevils. But you are not a timid mouse, either. You have enough built-in caution to make you weigh any risk sensibly before you take it.

There is no rash plunging from cliff tops when you cannot see the water below.

But when a little bit of rashness will pay off, you will take a carefully-calculated risk. And you certainly have both the stomach and the stamina not to be pushed into a corner by people with a more daring nature than yours. You are the one likely to be still in there standing your ground after they have lost their hold and fallen away.

55 — 120: No one can accuse you of lack of daring. They can and do say you are too quick on the draw for your own good (and theirs) at times. Your trouble is you don't feel danger in the gut like other people do. You have to compensate by using your head — or risk consequences that could range from physical injury to mental distress.

Dare to put the reins on your instincts at times. If you do, you should find yourself enjoying the best of both worlds. If you don't, your daring will bring you regrets.

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You should make sure you do not tread on anyone's toes. Something that has been bothering you will now be more easily dealt with. Make sure you do not take any risks with your health. Be hopeful.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will be able to do something you had long wanted to do. When you buy a new gadget make sure it does all you expect it to do. There is nothing to be gained from dwelling on the past and what might have been. Be sincere.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will be in high spirits and must beware of doing something on the spur of the moment. A few changes will have to be made but think about them carefully first. Do your best to avoid getting into a muddle. Be restrained.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will tend to be rather absent-minded and should make yourself notes as you go along. You will be rather vulnerable and should take things with a pinch of salt. Try to rid yourself of some resentments and prejudices. Be trustworthy.



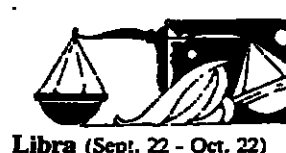
Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

Today you will be able to get a lot done, only you must not try to do too much all at once. You should keep your wits about you; someone is trying to deceive you. Keep your spending within the limits of affordability. Be respectful.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You will be better able to maintain harmony with your partner. An old friend with whom you have lost touch will be in your mind. Your lucky numbers are 6 and 19. Make sure you do not exaggerate and keep within speed and other limits. Be generous.



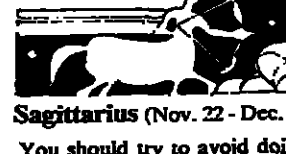
Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You will be able to think a little more positively. You should make sure you do not lose sight of the wood for the trees. You will have to work hard but will also be able to enjoy yourself. Be patient.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Everything will take just that much longer, so there is no time to muse and speculate. You must not allow yourself to be persuaded to act against your better judgment. Show just a little more goodwill towards others. Be less credulous.



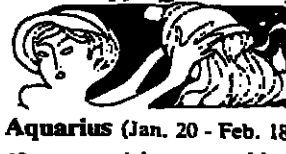
Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You should try to avoid doing anything that would leave you with no alternative. Make sure that others understand what you have in mind, and do not say anything ambiguous. You should eat lots of fresh fruit for the sake of vitamins. Be more optimistic.



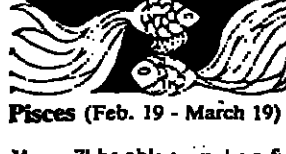
Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)

There will be some tension but you will be able to overcome it. Avoid "repairing" anything electrical unless you really know how to. You will be able to take advantage of a good opportunity. Be more careful.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

If you are relying on good luck you will be disappointed although you may well have some. You should not allow yourself to be possessed by negative thoughts, but you should face up to the facts too. Just a little more exercise will do you good. Be responsive.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You will be able to make a few changes, but you should think carefully about them first. You will have plenty of energy, but hardly more than you need. You should not allow yourself to become caught up in detail. Be objective.

WORLD POPULATION DAY

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1989

UN calls for urgent action

Investing in women: key to the future

SLOWER population growth in developing countries and economic progress without irreversible damage to the environment will depend on investment in women, including health care, family planning services, education, and better-paid employment outside the home, according to the 1989 State of World Population Report, by Dr Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

In many countries, women have few choices apart from marriage and children. They tend to have large families because that is expected of them, says the report. At the same time, they are responsible for food, fuel and water. They spend many hours in productive but unpaid and unrecognized labour. They also take an important but equally unrecognized part in the money economy. This 'invisible' work is as important as the visible part of what women do, the report states.

The report says that the results of ignoring the needs of women include: uncontrolled population growth, high infant and child mortality, a weakened economy, ineffective agriculture, a deteriorating environment, a divided society and a poorer quality of life for all.

Currently 5.2 billion, world population will increase by over 90 million each year until the end of the century. All but six million of each year's increase will live in developing countries, says the report. The population at the end of this century will be about 6.25 billion; about 8.5 billion by 2025. It may stop growing at 10 billion, about double its present size, perhaps a century from now.

To secure the projected drop in fertility, the number of women using family planning will have to rise to 730 million (58 per cent) in 2000 and finally to 1.2 billion (71 per cent or the present level in industrial countries) by 2025. In sub-Saharan Africa this would mean a ten-fold increase in family planning users by 2025.

If this does not happen, population will continue to increase, by larger numbers and for longer. The eventual total could be as high as 14 billion, the report says.

"These figures alone, and their implications for the global future, should be enough to make it clear that the population crisis is a matter for action now, not next century. By then it will be too late."

The report argues that when children cease to be the major source of women's status, women have smaller families. The most effective route to smaller families is to provide women with the means of social and economic self-determination: full rights in the family and society, access to income and career development, education and health care, and a real say in the decisions that affect their lives — of which one of the most important is family size.

The report calls for increased investment in women by governments. This includes health care and family planning, education, granting women equal access to land, to credit, to rewarding employment — as well as establishing their personal and political rights.

"Making the necessary changes means recognizing women not only as wives and mothers, but as vital and valuable members of society."



Dr Nafis Sadik, executive director of UNFPA.

It means that women themselves must take power in their own hands to shape the direction of their lives and the development plans from the start so that women's abilities, rights and needs are taken into account at every stage — so that women's status and security is derived from their entire contribution to society, rather than only from child-bearing, says the report.

"The extent to which women are free to make decisions affecting their lives may be the key to the future not only of the poor countries but of the richer ones too."

"The report makes a number of recommendations for action to governments, international and non-governmental organizations. Among them are:

- Establish and enforce laws of equal pay for work of equal value and repeal all laws and practices preventing or restricting women from owning and administering productive resources.
- The report also lists a number of specific goals for the year 2000, including:
- Extend family planning services to 500 million women.
- Increase international assistance for family planning programmes from \$0.5 billion to \$2.5 billion per year.
- Reduce maternal mortality by 50 per cent.
- Reduce infant mortality to 50 per 1000.
- Expand girls' enrollment in primary school to at least 75 per cent. In countries where girls' enrollment is particularly low, ensure that the ratio of girls to boys in primary school is at least 4:5.
- Expand girls' enrollment in secondary school to at least 60 per cent by the year 2000. In countries where girls' enrollment is particularly low, ensure that the ratio of girls' to boys in secondary school is at least 3:5.
- Increase women's literacy so that at least 70 per cent are able to read and write.

"Investing in women is not a panacea. It will not put an end to poverty, remedy the gross inequalities between people and countries, slow the rate of population growth, rescue the environment, or guarantee peace but it will make a critical contribution towards all those ends. It will have an immediate effect on some of the most vulnerable of the world's population. And it will help create the basis for future generations to make better use of both resources and opportunities," the report concludes.

Lessons in life

CHILDREN... of educated women live longer

- Four to six years of mothers' schooling reduces deaths of children in their first 12 months by as much as 20%. Every additional year of education causes a drop of up to 9% in deaths of children up to the age of six.
- A 1% rise in women's literacy is three times more effective in reducing child mortality than a 1% rise in the number of doctors.

A woman's education is the single most important factor in determining how many children she will bear. More girls are attending school now. This is having a profound effect on family planning and child survival, according to the 1989 United Nations Population Fund's State of World Population Report. Mary O'Hare explains why educated mothers have a greater impact on health than doctors or running water.



A class in progress in Africa.

When 11-year-old Julia (or Neerja or Fatimah) packs her satchel and sets off to school she has a number of things on her mind. The lessons she has that day, the friend she will play with during break-time, the marks she will get for her homework.

What she is probably not thinking about is how many children of her own she intends to bear and how she will keep them alive and healthy.

But her going to school has a powerful effect on these decisions. The 1989 State of World Population Report from the United Nations Population Fund says that nothing is as important as the education of girls in determining fertility and child mortality rates.

In almost every country studied in recent years, educated women have been found to have fewer children than their uneducated sisters. In Brazil, for example, uneducated women have an average of 6.5 children each whereas those with secondary education have only 2.5. In Liberia women who have secondary education are ten times more likely to be using family planning than women who have not been to school at all.

Since more girls are receiving education in the developing world, the education factor becomes extremely significant. Today there are 29 per cent more girls and

16 per cent more boys in secondary school than there were a decade ago.

Over the same period researchers found that fertility in four Latin American countries went down by 40-60 per cent. And, the experts say, education was responsible.

Why should there be such a close link? There are a great many reasons — some obvious, others more complex. Most immediately apparent is the fact that girls who attend secondary school will marry later than girls who do not — especially in countries where it is quite normal for girls to marry at puberty. But it is not simply a matter of reducing a woman's child-bearing years. There is also the question of what goes on in the minds of the young women themselves, their social and intellectual development and their relationship with the outside world.

Education is a springboard into the modern world. An educated, literate woman is far more likely to make use of clinics, post-offices or transport systems. This is not necessarily because she has learned about these things in school. It is mainly because education makes her more confident, more able to find her way around and less dependent on men. She is more likely to feel that she does have control over her own life — and her own fertility.

But what has this to do with infant

mortality? First, educated women are better able to keep their children alive and healthy. Researchers studying 46 countries have found that a one per cent rise in women's literacy rate is three times more effective in reducing infant mortality (the number of children who die in their first year) than a one per cent rise in the number of doctors.

They also found that four to six years of a mother's education led to a 20 per cent drop in infant deaths. It is not surprising that experts have come to the conclusion that education is more important even than sanitation in saving the lives of children in Peruvian shanty-towns.

So, when Julia (or Neerja or Fatimah) has children she is statistically far more likely than her uneducated cousin to get her children immunized and keep medical cards for them. When her child is sick she will tend to take her or him to a clinic rather than a traditional healer. And she is more likely to do so on her own initiative — without having to wait for approval from her husband.

Being able to keep their children alive has a huge psychological impact on parents. In families where a child has died, parents will tend to produce more children than they originally wanted. Having children becomes a form of insurance against the risk of losing them all and ending up

with no offspring to support you in your old age. It would be hard to convince parents in this situation that family planning is a practical, let alone desirable, option.

If, on the other hand, a mother knows that there are certain things she can do to help keep her children alive she will be far more open to the idea of controlling the size of her family.

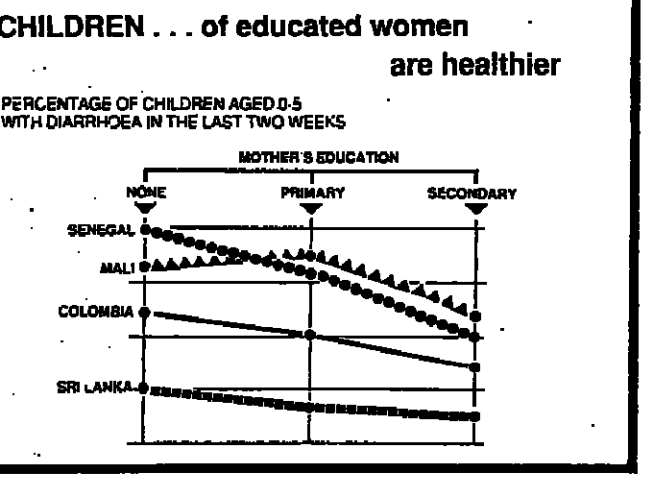
Education has other benefits. From Nepal to New York the story is the same. Women who are educated get better health care because they expect and demand better health care.

In an ideal world all women would have several years of uninterrupted education before they decided to start a family. But at this moment, in every country in the world, one schoolgirl or another is discovering that the uniform won't zip up any more. The bulge of pregnancy is beginning to show and she is going to have to quit school.

Special centres for adolescent mothers in Jamaica, have shown that it is never too late for education to have its impact on fertility. In Jamaica 28 per cent of all births — and 40 per cent of abortions — are to teenagers. Typically, teenage mothers tend to get pregnant again quite soon after bearing their first child.

EDUCATED WOMEN... have fewer children

- In Brazil uneducated women give birth to 6.5 children. Those with secondary education bear only 2.5.
- In Liberia women secondary school graduates are ten times more likely to be using family planning than uneducated women.



Family planning saves lives

The lives of 5.6 million children and 200,000 women could be saved each year if all the women who wanted to limit their families had access to family planning.

THE DANGER

Unwanted pregnancies are dangerous — both for mothers and children.

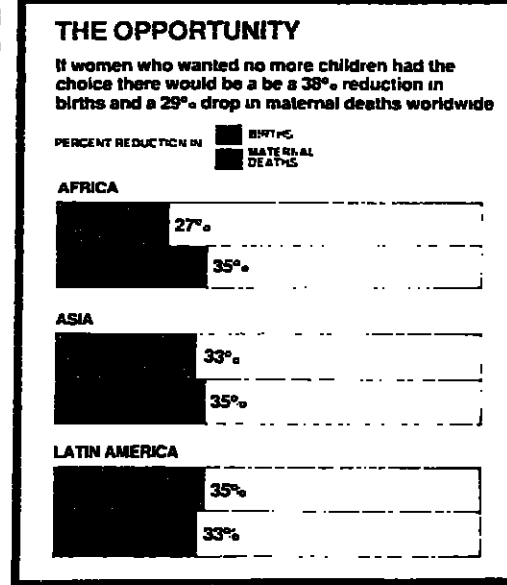
MOTHERS
500,000 women die of maternal causes a year. More than 200,000 of these could be saved if they were able to plan their families.

CHILDREN
10 million children under the age of five die a year — more than half of these as a result of poor maternal health during pregnancy, unsafe delivery, or inadequate care after birth.

THE UNMET NEED

An African woman is 200 times as likely to die in childbirth as her European counterpart. But millions of Third World women are denied family planning.

- In 60 per cent of developing countries, the need for family planning is not met.
- In Latin America 36% of women planning their families would use modern methods. The figure is 45% in Asia and 57% in Africa.
- In 12 African countries up to 90% of women have heard of modern methods of contraception.



THE COST

To bring family planning to all women who want it would cost an extra \$2 billion a year until the year 2000. This is less than the annual US expenditure on tobacco advertising.

While you are reading this ... a woman is dying in childbirth

It sounds like a contradiction: family planning saves lives. Prevents lives, maybe. But saves them? Look at it this way: for each minute it takes you to read this article one woman is dying in childbirth. Most will be women in poor countries whose bodies are simply not sufficiently strong or well-nourished for the task required of them. Half a million women die of maternal causes every year. Over 200,000 of these could have been saved if only they had been able to plan their pregnancies.

Then there are the children who die. Every year 10 million children fail to reach their first birthday. Half of these deaths occur in the first month of life. The cause? Poor maternal health in pregnancy, unsafe delivery and inadequate care after birth.

Saves

Family planning saves lives because lack of family planning kills — on a massive scale. Yet around half the women in developing countries who would like to plan their families are unable to do so. If they could there would be 35 per cent fewer births in Latin America, 33 per cent fewer in Asia and 27 per cent fewer in Africa, says the 1989 State of World Population Report from the United Nations Population Fund.

To get family planning to all the women who want it would cost an extra \$2 billion a year until the year 2000, says the report. That sounds like a lot of money — especially since present world expenditure on family planning is just \$3 billion a year.

But \$2 billion is a low price to pay to save lives and alleviate a great deal of suffering. It is, for example, less than the US tobacco industry spends annually on advertising its products in North America alone. Put in the context of international development aid it forms just two per cent of the total.

mother is giving her strange looks. Angelo says he will help with the money, but he is only a student so he can't afford much. He does, however, say he knows a woman who will do it cheaply. Rosa is worried — with reason.

Abortion is the number one killer of women aged 15 to 25 in Latin America. Illegal abortions claim the lives of an estimated 200,000 women world-wide. For every 100 known pregnancies there are 24 to 32 intended abortions — the need for which could have been avoided in most cases if family planning were easily and readily available.

But what if women want and need to have a lot of children? To women in many parts of Africa — where child mortality is high and infertility is widespread — the idea of a having small family is not at all desirable. Children are needed to look after you in your old age.

In these circumstances the most useful role family planning can play is to space out the births, giving both mother and child a better chance of survival and a better quality of life.

If there were a gap of at least two years between all births the number of infant deaths would drop by 15 per cent, says the World Fertility Survey. The World Bank puts the figure at an even higher 25 per cent.

If the gap is four years or more so much the better. Baby Nelson, playing with his four-year-old sister Mary in their Liberian home, stands a three times greater chance of surviving his first year than if he had been born just two years after her.

Mary has benefited too. She was not deposited early from her mother's breast by a new pregnancy. There was no other young infant competing for food or attention in her first few years. This is particularly important in a poor family where resources are scarce.

More family planning could save the lives of more than 200,000 women and at least five million children. The cost? Just an extra \$2 billion a year, according to the 1989 State of World Population Report from the United Nations Population Fund. Rosemary Turner reports.

How exactly would more family planning save lives?

Well, it could make a big difference to girls like Rashida. Although only 11 years old, Rashida is a married woman. This is quite normal in many parts of the Indian subcontinent, where she lives. Now if Rashid had children before the age of 15 — as she most likely will — the risk of her dying in childbirth is five times greater than if she could delay becoming a mother until she is 20.

For every teenage mother who dies there are 10 to 15 who are severely disabled by childbirth. For a young mother who is still growing, bearing a child can cause the most distressing damage, such as permanent tears of the vagina into the urethra or rectum leading to incontinence and infection.

The prospects for the child born to a vulnerable mother are not much better. If a mother dies in childbirth the chances are her baby will not live to see its first birthday. One study of 28 maternal deaths in Bangladesh found that although all the babies survived initially, all died within the year.

At the other end of the scale is Rashida's grandmother. At 42 years of age she finds herself pregnant again with a ninth child. She is tired, her body's strength sapped by a combination of child-bearing and undernourishment. This unwanted birth could be more than she can take. She knows this. Women in her situation run the highest risk of post partum haemorrhage — the most common cause of maternal mortality.

Meanwhile, in another part of the globe is Rosa, a 19-year-old Peruvian woman. It is becoming increasingly difficult to conceal that swelling of her belly under the disguise of loose clothing. Her

International donors recognise the need for more money to be put into family planning world-wide. Between 1971 and 1985 they gave an extra \$24 million a year. It sounds good, but in fact inflation devoured most of that increase leaving one of only \$2 million a year.

Declined

Worse still, between 1979 and 1982 the real value of family planning actually declined by around \$13.5 million a year. Developing countries heavily dependent on international aid for their family planning programmes had to cut back their services — although population and demand were growing.

Even in countries where the state itself funds most family planning, services have been slashed as part of wider spending cuts. Recent figures reveal that 37 of the poorest countries have cut health spending by 50 per cent and education by 25 per cent in the last four years.

The burden of Third World debt is mainly to blame — with poor countries of the South now subsidising the rich countries of the North. The cost to poor countries of debt servicing, repayments and worsening terms of trade means that the South has a net outflow of \$20 billion a year to the North. This compares with a \$40 billion inflow a decade ago.

It is against this backdrop of economic violence that a woman's need for family planning must be seen. It would cost around \$10-\$20 a year to provide her with the means to control her own fertility and safeguard her own health and that of her children. \$2 billion a year until the year 2000 would throw out that lifeline to all those women caught in the random and destructive maelstrom of fate and fertility.

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Pistons complete sweep

MILWAUKEE, May 16, (AP): Joe Dumars scored 22 points as the Detroit Pistons rallied from a 21-point deficit to beat the Milwaukee Bucks 96-94 last night and complete a four-game sweep of their Eastern conference semifinal playoff series.

Detroit, now 7-0 in the playoffs this season, will play either the Chicago Bulls or the New York Knicks in the Eastern Conference finals as the Pistons bid for a return trip to the NBA championship series.

Bill Laimbeer and Isiah Thomas added 17 points each for the Pistons, who overtook the Bucks by outscoring Milwaukee 32-17 in third quarter, then held on in the final minute.

The injury-plagued Bucks had to get permission from NBA president David Stern to play the game when an injury to Ricky Green left them with only eight players. The Bucks already were without starting forwards Terry Cummings and Larry Krystkowiak, as well as centre Paul Mokeski, and swingman Paul Pressey. But they got a career-high 33 points from Fred Roberts and 21 from Ricky Pierce.

Pierce, who had only five points in his second half, hit two baskets to bring Milwaukee to within 93-91 with 1:51 to go. Dumars hit two free throws for the Pistons and Jay Humphries made two for Milwaukee with 44 seconds left to make it 95-93.

Laimbeer missed a 3-point attempt with 22 seconds to go, but Thomas rebounded and made one of two free throws with eight seconds remaining, putting the Pistons ahead 96-93.

Pierce was fouled with two seconds remaining and made the first free throw. He missed the second intentionally but the ball bounced into the backcourt as time ran out.

The Pistons, who trailed 45-24 with 7:33 remaining in the second quarter, cut the deficit to 10 at halftime and began the second half with a 25-9 run, getting seven points from Thomas and five each from Laimbeer and Dumars. The spurt gave Detroit a 69-63 lead with 3:23 remaining in the third quarter.

Roberts kept the Bucks in the game with 11 third-quarter points, but the Pistons scored 21 entering the fourth quarter after making 12 of 18 field goal attempts in the third period.

Milwaukee had opened up its 21-point lead on the strength of a 26-6 run and the scoring of Roberts and Pierce.

Roberts had 12 first-quarter points and finished the half with 17 while Pierce scored 12 of his 16 first-half points in the second quarter.

The Pistons got to within 10 at the half when Laimbeer and Thomas combined to hit three straight 3-pointers in a 13-2 run.

De Leon seeks to regain title

LONDON, May 16, (Reuters): A certain ring-rustiness is likely when Puerto Rican Carlos de Leon meets former British and European champion Sammy Reeson for the vacant World Boxing Council (WBC) cruiser-weight title tomorrow.

Neither has fought for the past year. Reeson's last outing was in May 1988 when he beat American Eric Williams and discovered only later he had been fighting with broken bones in his foot and shin sustained in training runs.

Dodgers outplay Mets

Phillies cut Giants down to size

NEW YORK, May 16, (AP): Mariano Duncan snapped an 0-for-19 slump with a two-run single, giving Los Angeles Dodgers a 3-1 victory over New York Mets in their first meeting since last year's playoffs.

Roger McDowell, 1-2, relieved to start the ninth with the score tied 1-1 and walked Jeff Hamilton with one out. After a wild pitch, Dave Anderson also walked and Randy Myers relieved.

After getting pinch-hitter Mickey Hatcher to pop to third, Myers walked Willie Randolph, loading the bases. Duncan, 4-for-8 as a pinch hitter, lined a single to left. Myers had inherited 18 runners previously this season and none had scored.

Ray Searage, 2-2, got the last out of the eighth and Jay Howell pitched the ninth for his fourth save, completing a combined four-hit with starter Mike Morgan.

In other National League games yesterday, it was Chicago 4, Atlanta 0; Cincinnati 6, Pittsburgh 5; San Diego 6, Montreal 5, 11 innings; Philadelphia 3, San Francisco 2, 12 innings.

Phillies 3, Giants 2. Bob Dernier's three-run, inside-the-park home run with two outs in the 12th inning ended Philadelphia's 20-inning scoreless streak.

Will Clark and Kevin Mitchell homered on consecutive pitches from Steve Bedrosian, 2-2, to give the Giants the lead in the top of the inning. It was Clark's sixth homer and third hit of the game.

and Mitchell's Major-League leading 12th homer.

Reds 6, Pirates 5. Herm Winningham's two-run, bases-loaded single capped a three-run rally with two outs in the ninth inning.

Barry Bonds hit a two-run homer and Rey Quinones and Bobby Bonilla added solo homers off Tom Browning as Pittsburgh took a 5-0 lead. But the Reds scored a run in the sixth, two in the eighth and then rallied to win in the ninth.

Cincinnati manager Pete Rose was ejected for arguing with home plate umpire Tom Hallion after Paul O'Neill was called out on strikes to end the fourth inning. It was Rose's second ejection this season.

Padres 6, Expos 5. Marvell Wynne snapped an 11th-inning tie with a run-scoring double and Jack Clark added an RBI single.

With the score tied at 4, Andy McGaffigan walked Bjo Roberts with one out and Wynne followed with his third consecutive hit, driving the ball into the right-field corner. One out later, McGaffigan, 1-2, intentionally walked Tony Gwynn and Clark singled to centre.

Mark Davis, 2-0, pitched 3 1/3 innings of two-hit relief, allowing a run-scoring single in the 11th to pinch-hitter Mike Aldrete. With runners on first and second, Davis struck out Rex Hudler to end the game.

Cubs 4, Braves 0. Lloyd McClendon hit his first three-run homer in his first at-bat

with the Cubs as Chicago snapped a five-game losing streak.

McClendon was acquired by Chicago last December from Cincinnati for outfielder Rolando Roomes, and was brought up yesterday from Iowa of the American Association after Mitch Webster was placed on the disabled list.

Mike Bielecki, 3-1, allowed four hits, struck out eight and walked three in seven innings. Derek Lilquist, 2-3, gave up six hits and all four runs in six innings for Atlanta, which lost for the third time in 11 games.

Blue Jays 5, Indians 3. George Bell knocked in three runs with a homer and a single last night as the Toronto Blue Jays won their first game under interim manager Cito Gaston, 5-3 over the Cleveland Indians.

Gaston replaced the fired Jimmy Williams earlier in the day.

Jimmy Key, 4-2, allowed six hits, one walk and had one strike-out in his third complete game of the season.

Bell and Lloyd Moseby each hit a pair of two-run homers for Toronto. Moseby ended an 0-for-27 slide with his shot.

Luis Medina hit his third home run for Cleveland.

In other American League games yesterday, it was Detroit 3, Chicago 2; Kansas City 4, Minnesota 3; Oakland 12, Milwaukee 2; and California 4, New York 3 in 11 innings.

Tigers 3, White Sox 2. Lou Whitaker and Chet Lemon homered and the Tigers

caught Daryl Boston trying to steal home for the final out.

Frank Tanana, 3-4, struck out five and walked one, improving his career record to 23-13 against the White Sox. After Dave Gallagher singled leading off the ninth for Chicago's fifth hit, Guillermo Hernandez came on for his seventh save in as many opportunities.

Standings

National League

East Division		Pct		GB	
W	L				
New York	20	15	.571	-	
St Louis	19	16	.543	-	
Montreal	20	18	.526	1 1/2	
Chicago	18	18	.500	2 1/2	
Philadelphia	16	19	.475	4	
Pittsburgh	14	21	.400	6	

West Division		Pct		GB	
W	L				
Cincinnati	21	15	.583	-	
San Francisco	19	18	.514	2 1/2	
Los Angeles	17	18	.486	3 1/2	
San Diego	19	21	.475	4	
Atlanta	18	20	.474	4	
Houston	17	19	.472	4	

American League		Pct		GB	
East Division					
W	L				
Boston	17	17	.500	-	
Cleveland	17	18	.486	1 1/2	
New York	17	19	.472	1	
Baltimore	15	19	.441	2	
Milwaukee	15	20	.429	2 1/2	
Toronto	13	24	.351	5 1/2	
Detroit	12	23	.343	5 1/2	

West Division		Pct		GB	
W	L				
Oakland	25	12	.676	-	
California	24	13	.649	1	
Kansas City	24	13	.649	1	
Texas	20	15	.571	4	
Seattle	20	18	.526	5 1/2	
Minnesota	16	19	.457	8	
Chicago	16	21	.432	9	



Dean Jones: to miss three one-day games

Jones can play again in two weeks: specialist

LONDON, May 16, (Reuters): Australian top-order batsman Dean Jones, who fractured a cheek bone six days ago, was told yesterday he could resume playing in two weeks.

A London specialist advised him there was no need for surgery or further treatment.

"He can resume light training in a couple of days and will be fit to play in two weeks," tour manager Bob Simpson said.

Jones, who was hit in the face while batting in the one-day match against Sussex, will miss the three one-day internationals against England on May 25, 27 and 29 but should be fit to play in the three-day match against either Lancashire or Warwickshire starting on May 31.

Woman makes mark in tough men's world

MISANO ADRIATICO, Italy, May 16, (Reuters): Kitted out in yellow leathers and white crash helmet, nothing distinguishes Taru Rinne from the men in the fast and dangerous world of Grand Prix motorcycling.

But when the 20-year-old 125cc rider from Turku in Finland removes the helmet, the difference is obvious.

For petite-built Rinne is the only woman professional on the distinctly male world championship circuit.

"I don't think I face any special problems as a woman and sometimes it can help off the track because men want to be gentlemen," Rinne said before the Italian Grand Prix.

"But in a race it's difficult to tell if I'm a man or a woman and nobody is going to make way for me just because I'm a girl," she said.

at Misano Adriatico, her 11th Grand Prix.

"Of course, my dream is to win a race and go on to be world champion one day. I believe it's possible for women and I've already shown I can be as good as the men."

Rinne's passion for speed began with amateur go-karting at the age of nine and has endured despite the injuries that come from hurtling around a crowded track on two wheels at 140 kph.

She crashed out of her first Grand Prix in Sweden in 1987 and is undeterred by accidents that have broken both collar bones and caused groin and knee injuries.

"When something is important you can't afford to be afraid," Rinne said, "and as long as I'm good and can get results this will be important to me."

Rinne won her first two world championship points with 14th place in last year's French Grand Prix and earned her first point this season when she rode her Honda to 15th place in the Spanish Grand Prix two weeks ago.

She currently races for an Italian team and says she may eventually try to compete on the heavier and more powerful 250cc and 500cc bikes if she does well at 125cc.

She also believes she may help attract more women to one of sport's most solidly male preserves.

"When I began 125cc racing in Finland I was the only girl. Now there are two others," she said.

Rinne could even face female competition in her own class at world championship level next season.

Undine Kummer, a West German who combines motorcycling with a job as a dental technician, was contesting her third 80cc Grand Prix at Misano Adriatico and hopes to progress to 125cc racing.

"My objectives is to become a professional rider. I hope to find enough sponsors to buy a 125cc bike and compete in the world championship next year," Kummer said.

Rinne competes in the winter in Motocross events and Finnish Ice Speedway and has the support of her parents to continue motorcycling at top level.

"My father used to be keen on amateur motor racing and that's maybe where I get my interest from," Rinne said.

No witnesses to the incident

Tyson not to face charges



Tyson: says goodbye to assault charges against him

LOS ANGELES, May 16, (Reuters): Criminal charges will not be brought against world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, accused of hitting a car-park attendant three times in the stomach, a city prosecutor said yesterday.

Attendant Michael Devine, 33, alleged Tyson hit him after he told the boxer he could not park his white sports car in a space reserved for the owner of a Los Angeles nightclub.

But city prosecutor Tim Hogan said he had decided charges would not be filed against Tyson.

"There were no witnesses to the incident on behalf of the alleged victim and no visible injuries," Hogan told reporters. "I just don't have any more than this guy's word without any injuries."

Tyson, 22, denied hitting Devine, who weighs 180 pounds (81 kg), but did not deny there had been a dispute.

"Two years ago Tyson was charged with assault after he was alleged to have punched a car-park attendant who tried to prevent him kissing a woman attendant. The charge was dismissed after an out-of-court settlement."



555
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Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

OAU threatens boycott of 1990 Games

ADDIS ABABA, May 16, (Reuters): The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) today threatened an African boycott of the Commonwealth Games in Auckland in January if British rugby players go to South Africa.

The OAU statement followed yesterday announcement by the English Rugby Union that it would pass on to players any invitations to the South African Rugby Board's centenary in August, clearing the way for them to accept. Wales and Scotland had already taken this step.

The OAU said it would ask Britain to keep its rugby players from going to South Africa "should it want Africa not to boycott Games in which England is participating, starting from next year's Commonwealth Games in New Zealand."

Black African states boycotted the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh over sporting links with South Africa.

Referring to the British Rugby Union's decision to pass on invitations to the centenary in South Africa, the OAU said:

"No matter under whatever pretext England has opted for this decision, the move is viewed with contempt and is categorically unacceptable to Africa."

The 51-member OAU said it viewed the British Rugby Union's stand as "a deliberate provocation to Africa" and "a betrayal of the whole of Africa and all anti-apartheid movements in the world."

African nations consider participation in sporting events with South African teams provides indirect support for the regime.

Romania bank on Steaua in vital World Cup qualifier

BUCHAREST, May 16, (Reuters): Unbeaten Romania are banking on the influence of a strong contingent of players from European Cup finalists Steaua Bucharest in their bid to beat Bulgaria in a World Cup qualifying soccer match tomorrow.

Victory for European Group One leaders Romania would sustain their prospects of reaching next year's finals in Italy, though it is their two matches against Denmark in October and November which are likely to decide the issue.

Romania lead second-placed Denmark by one point in the four-team section.

Romanian manager Emerich Jancsi said he was counting on as much as eight Steaua players against Bulgaria: goalkeeper Silviu Lung, defenders Stevan Iovan, Adrian Bumbescu, Nicolae Ungreanu, midfielders Gavril Balint, Gheorghe Hagi, Ilie Dumitrescu and striker Marius Lacatus.

"This match is very important for us," Jancsi said. "If we win our chances of playing in the final are very good. We should also help Steaua to prepare well for their (Champions' Cup) match with AC Milan next week."

Jancsi, who coached Steaua when they won the European Cup in 1986 before taking over the national team two years ago, will not, however, use Steaua veterans Tudorel Stoica and Victor Piturca, who are to join French team Lens next season.

Jancsi has lifted Romania with some good results, contrasting with the fortunes of his Bulgarian counterpart, Boris Angelov, whose position appears to be in jeopardy.

After losing 2-0 to Denmark in Sofia last month, Bulgaria slumped to the bottom of the group with one point from three matches, and their chances of qualifying look remote.

"It's not very complicated," said Angelov. "The match on Wednesday is our last chance and we have to win."

Wilander survives

Frana stretches top seed



Mats Wilander

ROME, May 16, (Reuters): Top seed Mats Wilander, battling himself as much as his opponent, clawed back from one set down against unseeded Argentine Javier Frana today to reach the second round of the Italian Open Tennis Championships.

The Swede, hit by a slump in form since he swept to three Grand Slam titles in 1988, lost the first set on a tiebreak and was 1-3 down to Frana in the second before he revived to win 6-7-6-3-6-2.

Wilander, whose world ranking has fallen from one to four since his US Open victory last September, took more than two hours to defeat an opponent ranked 116 places below him.

"It's not that I'm playing with a lot of great confidence at the moment," Wilander, who regards Rome as preparation for his French Open defence, said afterwards. "It was important to get the first set over, win or lose."

"When I was down in the set, suddenly I felt much better and after all the training of the past few weeks I realised I wanted to win the match. It was something I hadn't felt for a long time."

Yesterday third seed Kent Carlsson continued a series of disappointments by bowing out of the championships to old friend Mark Koevremans.

To add insult to the defeat,

unseeded Dutchman Koevremans, a 6-4-6-4 winner, was playing against doctors' orders with a broken toe while Carlsson, whose career catalogue of injuries would fill a medical dictionary, declared himself in perfect physical shape for once.

Australian Mark Woodforde, the 16th seed, also made his exit yesterday, beaten 6-2-6-3 by Spain's Fernando Luna but American Aaron Krickstein, the number seven, had an almost effortless 6-3-6-2 victory over Andres Vysand of the Soviet Union.

Clay specialist Carlsson, a semifinalist here last year and ranked ninth in the world, lost his opening matches in Nice and the West German Open in recent weeks and did not play last month's Monte Carlo Open because of back problems.

Results

Mats Wilander (Sweden) beat Javier Frana (Argentina) 6-7 (6-8) 6-3 6-2; Emilio Sanchez (Spain) beat Eduardo Bengoechea (Argentina) 6-1 6-2; Pete Sampras (US) beat Diego Perez (Uruguay) 6-3 6-2; Tom Nijssen (Netherlands) beat Nuno Marques (Portugal) 6-3 6-1; Darren Cahill (Australia) beat Franco Davin (Argentina) 1-6 7-5 6-2; Jimmy Connors (US) beat Cedric Pietrangeli (France) 6-4 6-2; Bruno Oresar (Yugoslavia) beat Ronald Agnori (Italy) 7-6 (7-3) 3-6 6-2; Sergio Brugner (Spain) beat Andres Gomez (Ecuador) 12-6 6-2-6-2; Jaime Yzaga (Peru) beat Marian Vajda (Czechoslovakia) 7-5 6-2.

Everton warm up for Wembley final

LONDON, May 16, (Agencies): Ian Wilson's first League goal for Everton gave his side the tonic of a win over Derby yesterday in their last match before they meet neighbours Liverpool in the English FA Cup final.

Everton, missing four of the side likely to face Liverpool at Wembley on Saturday, would have won more handsomely but for the brilliance of England goalkeeper Peter Shilton, who played a key role in his side's 2-1 win over First Division leaders Arsenal last Saturday.

After being beaten by Wilson

in the 16th minute for the game's only goal, Shilton made superb saves from Tony Cottee (twice), Graeme Sharp, Wilson, Dave Watson and Wayne Clarke.

Full back Neil McDonald missed a 54th minute penalty for Everton when he drove against the post.

Nottingham Forest, who have been on the fringes of the championship chase for much of the season, salvaged a point at Coventry when Nigel Clough scored in the 87th minute to make the score 2-2.

All four goals were scored in a

hectic final 16 minutes.

Meanwhile Liverpool was 2-7 favourite yesterday to retain its English Soccer League title after beating Wimbledon 2-1 on Saturday to close the gap to league leader Arsenal to just two points.

The Club is even money to complete the League and FA Cup double.

However, Liverpool player-manager Kenny Dalglish warned his players against getting caught up in speculation about the title.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Cup qualifier

COPENHAGEN, May 16, (Reuters): Greece plan to speedily counter attacks to try and upset a Denmark team whose players may also be hit by fatigue in tomorrow's World Cup qualifying soccer match. The Greeks, three points behind European Group One leaders Romania with three games left, desperately need to secure their first victory to keep alive their hopes of reaching next year's finals in Italy.

Watford striker

CARDIFF, May 16, (Reuters): The English Football League have come to Wales' manager Terry Yorath's aid for their vital World Cup qualifying tie with West Germany in Cardiff on May 31. Watford's striker Iwan Roberts has been named in the Welsh squad, despite the fact his club could be involved in the Second Division play-off final on the same night.

United reserves

MANCHESTER, England, May 16, (Reuters): Manchester United's reserve soccer team moved closer to relegation from the English Central League First Division last night when they were beaten 3-1 by Leicester reserves - despite fielding four internationals.

Swiss striker

BERNE, Switzerland, May 16, (UPI): Swiss international striker Andy Halter, recently recovered from a knee injury, scored both goals to lead Grasshoppers to a 2-1 victory over Aarau in the Swiss Soccer Cup final at Berne before 27,000 spectators yesterday afternoon.

Football Association

LONDON, May 16, (UPI): The English Football Association said yesterday it will wait for a report by referee Mike Bodenham before taking any action over a riot by spectators at the Crystal Palace vs. Birmingham soccer match Saturday.

Wilson banned

NEW YORK, May 16, (AP): Stanley Wilson, the football player suspended for drug use on the eve of the championship Super Bowl game, was permanently banned from professional football in the United States yesterday because of his continuing drug abuse problem.

Musidora Stakes

YORK, England, May 16, (Reuters): Snow Bride underlined her English Oaks horse racing classic prospects with a game half-length success in the Musidora Stakes today. The filly, a 4-1 chance ridden by Steve Causton, fought back to regain the lead 100 metres from home and deny the persistent challenge of the even money favourite Pilot, the mount of Willie Carson.

Riders fined

GENEVA, May 16, (Reuters): Top riders including world champion Eddie Lawson who pulled out of Sunday's rain-hit Italian Grand Prix 500cc race for safety reasons have been fined 2,000 Swiss francs (\$740) each by the International Motorcycling Federation (FIM).

Soccer disaster

SHEFFIELD, England, May 16, (Reuters): A soccer fan today told an inquiry into Britain's worst sports disaster how he gasped for air surrounded by dead spectators held upright by crowd pressure in a packed stadium. "There were dead people standing up. My uncle was right next to me. I knew in the end he was dead," Keith Colding, a 36-year-old Liverpool football club supporter, said.

Gabriela Sabatini

BERLIN, May 16, (AP): Gabriela Sabatini, the Argentine tennis star, today celebrated her 19th birthday and confirmed that she will play at the French Open and Wimbledon. Sabatini said after winning the Italian Open in Rome on Sunday that she was homesick and indicated that she might skip the two Grand Slam tournaments.

Title fight

NEW YORK, May 16, (AP): Glenwood "The Real Beast" Brown, the World Boxing Association's fifth-ranked welterweight contender, will take on Young Dick Tiger May 21 in a title bout, in London.

Olympic bid

ATHENS, May 16, (Reuters): Greece yesterday opened a major three-part exhibition, ranging from 2,500-year-old antiquities to modern art, to back its bid for the 1996 Summer Olympics.



Winner turns joker

Ivan Lendl jokes with photographers during the winner's ceremony after beating Horst Skoff in the final of the West German Men's Open tennis tournament in Hamburg on Tuesday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Klinsmann aims to steal the show in UEFA final

STUTTGART, West Germany, May 16, (Reuters): Internazionale Milan-bound striker Juergen Klinsmann knows he could give VFB Stuttgart no better leaving present than their first European title when they meet Napoli in the UEFA Cup final second leg tomorrow.

The 24-year-old West German international, who missed VFB's 2-1 first leg defeat in Italy, wants to steal the stage on a night when the spotlight will be firmly fixed on favourites Napoli and their Argentine World Cup star Diego Maradona.

"I've only got one thing to do here now," Klinsmann said. "It would be a dream if I could leave VFB as UEFA Cup champions. I want the people here to know I'm giving everything until my last day of work at Stuttgart."

Klinsmann, who joins Inter at the end of the season for a fee of \$2 million, is a key figure in VFB's chances of stopping Napoli from snatching their first European club title. A 1-0 win would be enough to keep the Cup in West Germany and match Bayer Leverkusen's victory in last year's final.

Coach Arie Haan will play Klinsmann up front with partner Fritz Walter and move Maurizio Gaudino, who scored a spectacular long-range goal in Naples, behind them in an attacking midfield role.

I will stay with Napoli until 1993: Maradona

NAPLES, Italy, May 16, (Reuters): Diego Maradona, who last week was involved in a row over his future at Napoli, said yesterday he would stay with the Italian First Division club until his contract ended in 1993.

In an interview for Italian television, Argentina's World Cup captain told Napoli fans: "I won't leave Naples before 1993."

Maradona recorded the interview just before he flew to West Germany for the second leg of the UEFA Cup final against VFB Stuttgart tomorrow. Napoli won the first leg 2-1.

Maradona last Monday told Italian television he might leave the club after losing the support of chairman Corrado Ferlaino, and similar remarks were reported in the Italian press later in the week.

But Maradona added in his latest television interview that recent newspaper reports that he had threatened to leave Naples were untrue.

"The only thing I confirm having said to Ferlaino is that if I'm no longer wanted at Naples, he can send me away. I'm sure to find a club elsewhere," Maradona said.

"When I leave Naples after my contract expires I would like to go back to Boca," Boca Juniors was the Argentine club for whom Maradona played before joining Barcelona in 1982.

Maradona said in the interview that he often prayed to God. "I don't always ask things for myself. The only thing I ask is to be able to win the UEFA Cup. The Neapolitans deserve it."

Maradona became a father for the second time today when his companion Claudia Villafane gave birth to a girl, family members said.

Mother and daughter were reported in good condition at a Buenos Aires clinic. Maradona was expected to fly to Argentina later this week.

The couple are parents of another daughter, Dalma, 2.

PSV capture Dutch title

AMSTERDAM, May 16, (Reuters): PSV Eindhoven clinched the Dutch First Division title for the fourth successive year yesterday when they beat FC Groningen 2-1 away.

The victory kept them three points clear of second-placed Ajax Amsterdam, 3-0 winners at BVV Den Bosch, with only one round of the championship left.

But libero Ronald Koeman said PSV had not played as well this season as they did in collecting the championship trophy last season.

"Last year we got the title because we played good soccer all year. This time it's because we were stronger than the others and not because we always played well," he said on radio.

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